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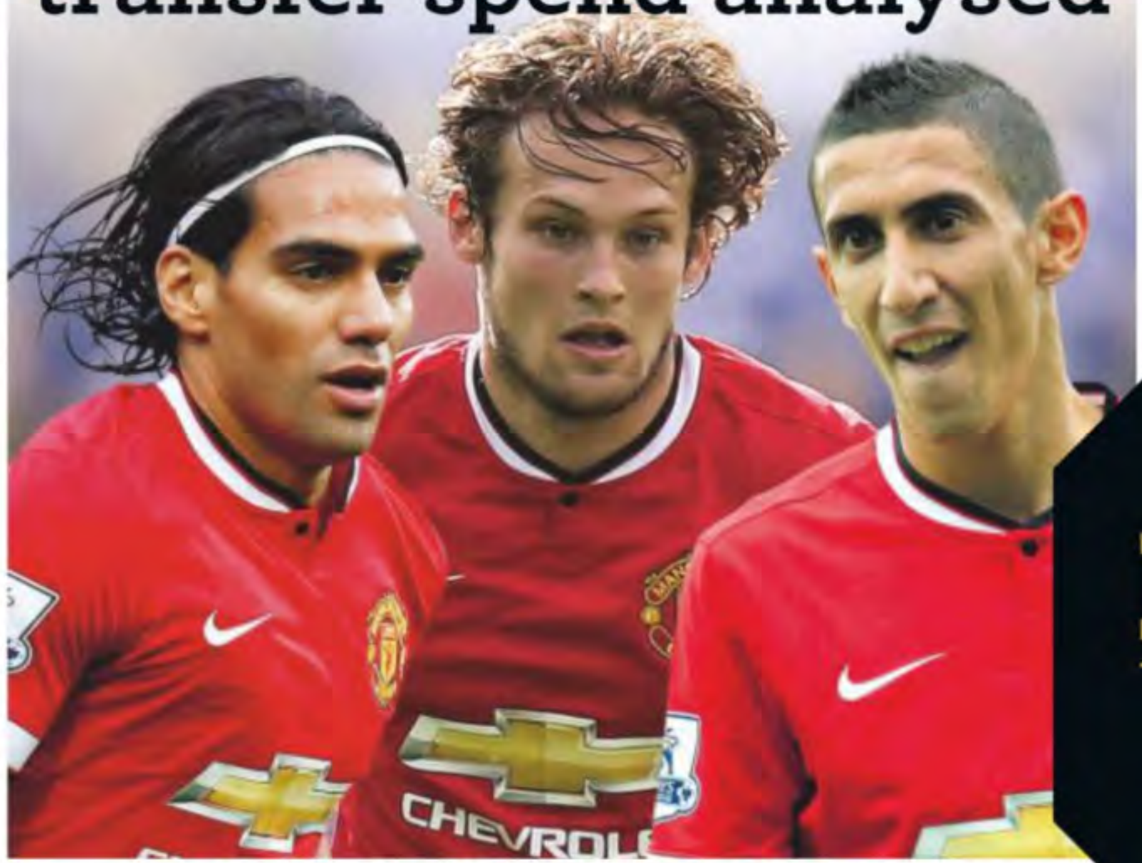

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As clubs try to comply with Financial Fairplay, Manchester United continue to buy players

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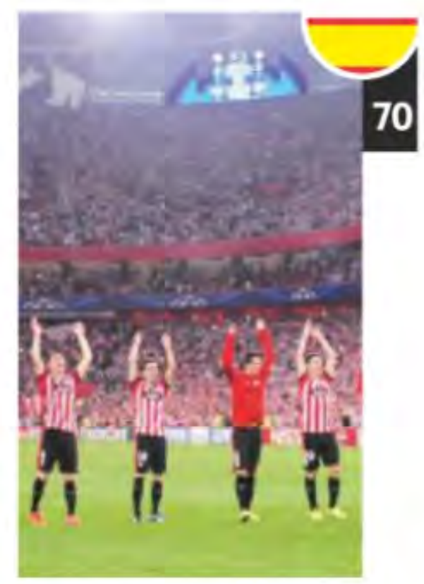

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See page 78.

# In Pictures

**The global game caught on camera**

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**PHILIPPINES....Jason De Jong of the Philippines holds off a challenge from Chinese Taipei's Chiu J-Huan (right) and Weng Wei-Pin on a rain soaked pitch during the Philippine Peace Cup in Manila**

ARGENTINA...Estudiantes' Diego Vera celebrates scoring against Gimnasia in the Sudamericana Cup

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA...fans watch the friendly international against Liechtenstein from an apartment block

GERMANY...Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang celebrates his goal for Borussia Dortmund against Freiburg

USA...Panama's Carlos Rodriguez grabs opponent Arturo Alvarez of El Salvador during the Centroamericana Cup

**SERBIA...riot police take up their positions during the Europa League tie between Partizan Belgrade and Tottenham Hotspur kick on the goal line**

**ENGLAND...the Manchester United bench are distraught after seeing their team concede five goals away to Leicester City**

**PICTURES OF THE MONTH QR CODE**
To see more of the best photos from the month, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the images by logging on to http://po.st/1kQzkN

# FROM THE EDITOR

It's not that long ago that Internazionale were considered to be among the elite of European club football. But they have not competed in the Champions League since 2012 and new owner, the Malaysian Erick Thohir (see *Club Focus*, page 52), has said he wants the club to be run on a sustainable basis, after years of the debts being covered by the Moratti family.

After years of being run on what our Italy correspondent Paddy Agnew describes as the "industrial baron model", Inter represent the new reality of Italian football. UEFA Financial Fairplay regulations may have their critics, but there is strong evidence that clubs across the continent are moderating their transfer spending in a bid to meet the new rules.

> It remains to be seen whether United can continue to attract sponsors while remaining outside the Champions League

However, there will always be exceptions, and Manchester United have provided such a storyline this summer with their record spending spree (see *Transfer Spending*, page 22). It remains to be seen whether United can continue to attract sponsors and sign star players while remaining outside of the Champions League – especially while the Glazer family continues to extract millions of pounds from the club every year.

It's a story that will run and run.

**Gavin Hamilton, Editor**

## 10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH


1. Calls for Michael Garcia's FIFA report to be published....pages 18 & 77
2. Wembley to host Euro 2020 Final and semis..... pages 9 and 76
3. Paulo Bento sacked as Portugal coach ..... page 37
4. Costa Rica win Centroamericana Cup..... page 42
5. Surprises in the Euro 2016 qualifiers ..... page 90
6. Big names struggle in the African Nations Cup qualifiers..... page 92
7. Indian Super League prepares to launch ..... page 38
8. Jerome Champagne confirms FIFA presidential challenge ..... page 62
9. FIFA to ban third-party ownership of players.....page 13
10. Platini attacks Ribery for international retirement ..... page 32




Timing...Blatter is yet to say whether he has returned his watch

SWITZERLAND

## ExCo members ordered to return £16,000 watches

FIFA ExCo members have been ordered to hand back the £16,000 watches given to them at the World Cup by the Brazilian federation (CBF) as the gifts contravened FIFA ethics rules.

Representatives of the 32 World Cup nations also received a watch, made by Swiss company Parmigiani. England FA chairman Greg Dyke said he was unaware of the value of the watch.

A statement from the ethics committee said: "The CBF should not have offered the watches, and those who received gift bags should have promptly checked whether the items inside were appropriate and, upon discovering the watch, either returned it or...reported the matter to the investigatory chamber.

"The FIFA code of ethics plainly prohibits such gifts. Football officials may not offer or accept gifts that have more than 'symbolic or trivial value'."

At a press conference, FIFA president Sepp Blatter declined on two occasions to say if he had given his watch back and described the affair as "a non-problem" and "a non-case", insisting the watches had been given in good faith by the CBF.

"We're killing the players. We're asking too much of them"

**Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola insists three competitive games in a week spells burn-out**

SWITZERLAND

# UEFA picks 2020 cities and 2016 Euro finals stadia

Wembley will host the European Championship Final and semi-finals when UEFA organises the tournament on a Europe-wide basis in 2020. It was the only candidate to host the Final after Munich withdrew its candidacy on the morning of the vote in Geneva.

Twelve cities will stage three group games each, plus a knockout match, in what will be the first continent-wide finals, split into regional zones. Munich, Rome, Baku and

**Euro 2020 Final host...Wembley**

**Europa venue...St Jakob Park in Basle**

St Petersburg were the four cities selected to host a quarter-final because they have stadia with a capacity of 60,000 or more.

The other hosts will be Copenhagen (Denmark), Bucharest (Romania), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Dublin (Ireland), Bilbao (Spain), Budapest (Hungary), Brussels (Belgium) and Glasgow (Scotland). (For more information, see *Keir Radnedge*, page 76.)

UEFA's executive committee also decided Milan's San Siro stadium will host the 2016 Champions League Final. St Jakob Park in Basle will stage the Europa League Final in 2016, while the Super Cup will be held in Norway for the first time, at Lerkendal Stadion in Trondheim.

# HEROES & VILLAINS

## ROGERIO CENI

The 41-year-old Sao Paulo goalkeeper scored his 120th career goal when he hammered in a penalty for his club in the top-of-the-table clash against Cruzeiro.

**Prolific keeper...Ceni**

## YACINE BRAHIMI

The Algerian midfielder scored his first career hat-trick, for Porto against BATE in the Champions League. The 6-0 win set a new club record in the competition.

## STEAUA BUCHAREST

The Romanian side set a new scoring record in the Europa League as they beat AaB of Denmark 6-0 in their opening group game. Soon after, PAOK of Greece became the second team to score six goals in the competition, beating Dinamo Minsk 6-1.

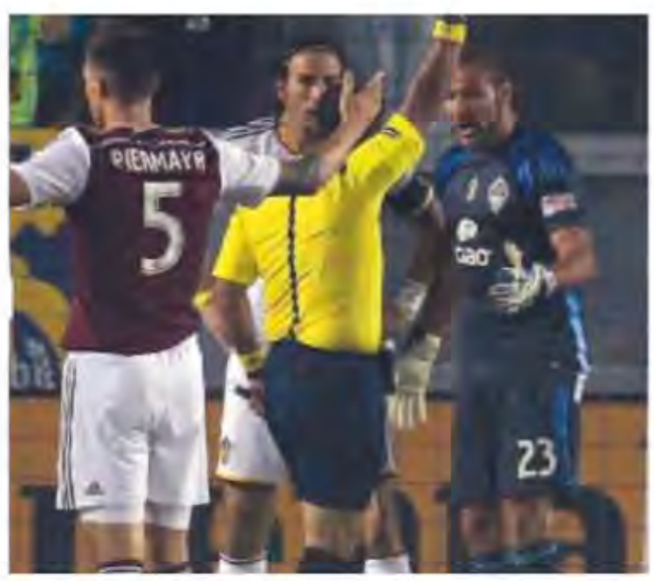
## ALBIN EKDAL

Having scored just three goals in his previous 77 appearances for Cagliari, the Swedish striker doubled his tally with a hat-trick as the team at the bottom of Serie A won 4-1 away to Internazionale.

**Hat-trick hero...Ekdal (left)**

## JOE NASCO

The Colorado Rapids goalkeeper who, at 30-years-old had made his MLS debut against Seattle Sounders, entered the MLS record books when, six days later he was sent off after only 34 seconds of the 6-0 defeat away to LA Galaxy.



**Quick dismissal...Nasco (no23)**

## ETEKIAMA AGITI TADY

The 27-year-old striker, who plays for the AS Vita Club of Congo, was banned for two years after being found guilty of playing for Rwanda under the alias of Dady Simeon Birori and using a different date of birth.

## SEBASTIANO PERUZZO

The Serie A ref booked Alessandro Florenzi after the Roma striker celebrated his goal against Cagliari by running off the pitch to hug his grandmother.

**Family...Florenzi celebrates with his grandmother**

## RICARDO TEIXEIRA

The disgraced former head of the Brazilian FA escaped FIFA punishment after agreeing a deal over his pension from the world governing body.

"Iker knows he cannot please everybody, but he's not a robot and the whistles affect him"

**Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos (left) rushes to the defence of team-mate Iker Casillas after the goalkeeper is criticised by fans at the Bernabeu**

# GOALS we'd like to see again

**To see video footage of these goals, and many more that we have selected, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the videos by logging on to http://po.st/4kAJhu**

**1 KARIM BENZEMA**
**Real Madrid v Basle**
A lovely interchange of passes with Cristiano Ronaldo before the Frenchman strikes a bullet of a shot.

**2 NEYMAR**
**Brazil v Colombia**
Two months after the Colombians kicked him out of the World Cup, Neymar claims a semblance of revenge with a beautifully curling free-kick into the near top corner.

**3 ARDA TURAN**
**Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid**
Juanfran crosses and Turan finishes, but the superb dummy from Raul Garcia is the highlight of this well-worked goal.

**4 ROBINHO**
**Santos v Coritiba**
Chips the goalkeeper from the edge of the penalty area following a Santos counter-attack.

**5 BOREK DOCKAL**
**Czech Republic v Holland**
Hits a sweet left-foot strike from just outside the penalty area that curls away from the keeper and went in off a post.

**6 ANDRES CHAVEZ**
**Boca Juniors v Rosario Central**
Jonathan Calleri chests it into the path of Chavez, who volleys in from the edge of the area.

## WINNERS

**COSTA RICA**
Captured a record eighth Central American Cup title, beating Guatemala 2-1 in the Final in Los Angeles.

**CLINT DEMPSEY**
The USA star claimed his first trophy at club level in a decade-old career as Seattle Sounders beat Philadelphia Union 3-1 in the US Open Cup Final.

**NOTTINGHAM**
Beat Manchester and Portsmouth to be named "city of football" by Sport England and will receive £1.6 million in funding to promote the game.

**EGYPT**
The seven-times African Nations Cup winners are on the verge of missing the finals for the third time in a row after losing their two opening qualifiers.

**GUINEA, LIBERIA & SIERRA LEONE**
Unable to host games on home soil due to the Ebola outbreak.

**GIBRALTAR**
Suffered a 7-0 thumping to Poland in their first competitive international, which they played at "home" in Portugal.

## LOSERS

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"We were shocked to see that Ronaldinho was a free agent and thought what better way for him to get back into football than to play for Basingstoke Town"

**Simon Hood, marketing director of the sixth-tier English side, before the Brazilian star (left) signed for Mexican club Queretaro instead**

# 15 MATCHES THAT MATTERED

Recent crunch games from around the globe

**GERMANY 2**
**ARGENTINA 4**
In a re-run of the summer's World Cup Final, the visitors beat the world champions with Angel Di Maria scoring one goal and setting up the other three.

**CAMEROON 4**
**IVORY COAST 1**
Clinton N'Jie and Vincent Aboubakar scored two goals each as the Indomitable Lions thrashed their star-studded visitors in Yaounde.

**COSTA RICA 2**
**GUATEMALA 1**
The "Ticos" claimed the Centroamericana Cup for a record eighth time, coming from behind to win the Final at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in California.

**BAYAMON 1**
**AMERICA 10**
The Mexican side set a new record score for the CONCACAF Champions League by reaching double figures in the group game in Peurto Rica.

**NIGERIA 2**
**CONGO 3**
The reigning African Nations Cup champions were surprisingly beaten at home in the opening round of group qualifying games for next year's finals.

**EGYPT 0**
**TUNISIA 1**
Record winners of the African Nations Cup, Egypt are in danger of missing the 2015 finals after defeat at home to Tunisia left them six points adrift in their group.

**PHILADELPHIA UNION 1**
**SEATTLE SOUNDERS 3 (aet)**
Sounders won the USA's longest-running football tournament, claiming the 101-year-old US Open Cup for a fourth time.

**MILAN 0**
**JUVENTUS 1**
Carlos Tevez's goal ended Milan's perfect start to Serie A as former Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri's new side went above his old side in the table.

**PORTUGAL 0**
**ALBANIA 1**
Defeat in the opening round of the Euro 2016 qualifiers saw the hosts lose a competitive home game for the first time in six years – and coach Paulo Bento sacked.

**REAL MADRID 1**
**ATLETICO MADRID 2**
Defending La Liga champions Atletico won the third Madrid derby of the season so far, having emerged victorious over two legs in the Spanish Super Cup.

**REAL MADRID 5**
**BASLE 1**
The Champions League holders made a great start to their defence of the trophy with four first-half goals against their Swiss opponents.

**MANCHESTER CITY 1**
**CHELSEA 1**
Chelsea old boy Frank Lampard scored a late equaliser against his former team-mates for 10-man City, who had Pablo Zabaleta sent off.

# David CONN

## AT THE HEART OF THE GAME

**DUNDEE 1**
**DUNDEE UNITED 4**
United went top of the Scottish Premier League after thrashing their neighbours – who have now not won a derby game for 10 years.

**LEICESTER CITY 5**
**MANCHESTER UNITED 3**
Leading 3-1 with just half an hour to go, United capitulated and conceded four goals in the space of 21 minutes against the Premier League newcomers.

**FEYENOORD 0**
**AJAX 1**
Ricardo van Rhijn's first-half free-kick was enough to secure the points for Ajax despite the home team hitting the crossbar three times.

## FIFA breaks the habits of a lifetime on third-party deals

FIFA's announcement of an intended ban on third-party ownership (TPO) of players was such a surprise that the sceptics spied an ulterior motive as the announcement arrived with news of inaction on Michael Garcia's investigations into the bid procedures for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

The former US prosecutor has said he wants his report to be published, but FIFA disagree, saying that a first public statement will now be made in November.

Although a damning report on TPO had been presented to a FIFA working party a week earlier, the issue did not appear even to be officially on the agenda for the executive committee members chauffeured into FIFA's bunker-like HQ on its hill above Zurich.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter's declaration of a ban on TPO was followed by an unusually forthright statement: "In order to protect the integrity of the game and the players, the executive committee took the decision of principle that third-party ownership of players' economic rights (TPO) shall be banned with a transitional period."

There is, perhaps, a little wriggle room there, that the decision is "of principle", and the organisations which have called for a ban, including the world players' union FIFPro, immediately turned minds to the difficult question of how on earth FIFA will ever achieve it.

TPO, in which investors buy percentage stakes in players and are paid that proportion of transfer fees when they are sold, began in Brazil and elsewhere in South America, and is said to be absolutely rife there.

Since the planting of Carlos Tevez and Javier Mascherano at West Ham United after the 2006 World Cup first familiarised British football with the spectacle of players being "owned" by investors, invariably in offshore tax havens, TPO has been banned in England but seeped deeply into Portugal and Spain.

The clubs have come to rely on selling rights in their players, trading a bit of them here and there, perhaps buying a bit back, in order to get cash flow before they are exported completely and cashed in, to the Premier League or elsewhere. Some argue the practice is necessary, particularly as clubs find it difficult to borrow from banks.

But the report to the FIFA working party, conducted with admirable thoroughness by the Centre de Droit et d'Economie du Sport and the Centre International D'Etude Du Sport was resoundingly damning of TPO and its effects. Rather than gaining financial ballast, the report found that clubs became trapped, like poor users of payday lending, in "a vicious circle of debt and dependency".

The researchers concluded that TPO agreements do influence club selection and transfer policy, that players are mostly not aware their futures are being traded, and that the core motivation, of maximising short-term profit, does not fit with proper development of players. Disturbingly, coaches can be involved with TPO funds, and therefore inclined to play players and put them in the shop window to make money for their associates.

> TPO influences selection and transfer policy... coaches can be inclined to put players in the shop window to make money for their associates

Agents are increasingly involved, as a means of extending their influence and money-making opportunities, the report found. Jorge Mendes, the broker of this summer's most high-profile moves, is deeply involved in advising third-party ownership funds, alongside the former Manchester United and Chelsea chief executive, Peter Kenyon.

UEFA had already decided that it abhors TPO and, in the week leading up to the ExCo meeting, pledged to act if FIFA did not.

FIFA's motives for deciding it will ban the practice may have been mixed, and political, or maybe not. Whatever, this was a remarkable moment of actual intended governance, and a pause should be taken to appreciate it, before the questions begin about if, and how, FIFA can deliver. WS

"It looks as though it's better to be a foreigner at PSG, someone who plays the PR game. I don't do 'Vive Paris' cinema on social networks"

**Milan striker Jeremy Menez, who was declared surplus to requirements at Paris Saint-Germain, continues to feel harshly treated**

# REPORTS we couldn't make up

Drenched...Italy coach Antonio Conte

**1** The world of football has not been immune to the Ice Bucket Challenge. Italy coach Antonio Conte was one of the high-profile personalities from the football family to take up the challenge to raise money for charity, and ice buckets have also been poured over the likes of Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho and Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany.

**2** The world record attendance for a futsal match was shattered when Brazil played Argentina in Brasilia.

A crowd of 56,483 turned up for the friendly at the Estadio Nacional Mane Garrincha and saw Brazil beat their neighbours 4-1 in what was the first time that a futsal match – which is normally played indoors – was staged in a football-specific stadium.

Futsal, a five-a-side game, has grown in popularity in recent years, especially in South America. The previous best attendance for a match was in 1999 when the Brazilian Liga Futsal Final attracted 25,712 spectators.

**3** German second division side 1860 Munich celebrated the popular Oktoberfest, which is held every year in the city, by wearing a unique kit resembling the traditional lederhosen that is worn at the Munich beer festival every autumn.

The kit, a blue-and-white checked shirt and brown shorts (in cotton, not the traditional leather), was worn for the first time in the home 1-1 draw against Ingolstadt at the Allianz Arena, which 1860 share with Bayern.

**4** Former Colombia star Faustino Asprilla has a new line of business, selling his own range of guava-flavoured condoms.

The Chinese-made contraceptives, which are planned for sale in Colombia initially, will be sold under the brand name "Tino".

"Some friends of mine in Medellin came up with the flavoured-condoms idea and I thought it would be fun to help out," said Asprilla.

"The main goal for me, really, is to support a campaign to prevent Aids and teen pregnancies.

"I hope people will buy them, use them and enjoy them."

**5** Former Germany, Werder Bremen and Hoffenheim goalkeeper Tim Wiese has been offered the chance to be a professional wrestler by American promoters WWE.

"Why should I say no? It's a very popular sport in the US," said Wiese, who took up bodybuilding after his contract with Hoffenheim was terminated in January.

**6** In a bid to boost attendances, Mexican club Irapuato offered fans their money back if supporters witnessed a defeat. "We're confident of victory. If 8,000 fans turn up and we lose versus Correcaminos, we'll give everybody their money back," said a club spokesperson.

Unfortunately for Irapuato, they slumped to a 1-0 defeat in Mexico's second tier; fortunately for Irapuato, only 2,467 spectators attended.

**7** Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning captain Lothar Matthaus is set to be married for a fifth time after becoming engaged to Anastasia Klimko, a 26-year-old Russian model.

Klimko appeared unconcerned that 53-year-old Matthaus is more than twice her age, saying: "When I showed photos of him to my friends, they all thought he was only 35 or 40."

Match...1860 (below left) and Matthaus with his fiancée (right)

## OBITUARIES

**Milan GALIC**
(1938-2014)
The Yugoslav striker scored 37 goals in 51 appearances for his country. He also won Olympic gold in 1960, scored in a 2-1 extra-time defeat by the Soviet Union in the inaugural European Championship Final that same year, and played in the 1962 World Cup in which his side finished fourth. At club level, he won four Yugoslav league titles with Partizan Belgrade and was a Belgian champion twice with Standard Liege.

World Cup 1962...Galic

Accident...Ukraine midfielder Husin

**Andriy HUSIN** (1972-2014)
The former Ukraine midfielder, who was most recently on the coaching staff of Russian side Anzhi, died in a motorbike accident when he lost control of his vehicle on a bend during a training heat at Kiev's Chaika motordrome. The winner of seven Ukrainian league titles and four domestic cups, he played in the 1999 Champions League semi-finals. He scored nine goals in 71 games for his country and appeared in the 2006 World Cup.

Wembley sub...Sandor

**Karoly SANDOR**
(1928-2014)
On the bench for Hungary's 6-3 win in England in 1953, he won 75 caps and played in the 1958 and 1962 World Cups. Captain of MTK Budapest in the 1964 European Cup-winners Cup Final when they lost 1-0 to Sporting Lisbon in a replay.

# Paul GARDNER

## THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

## Blatter's about-turn on video replays is yet another misplaced idea

Sepp Blatter, who not long ago stood out as a party-line Luddite whenever it was suggested that technology might help referees, seems now to be leading the charge for more technology in football. He wants to introduce "challenge calls" to allow coaches the opportunity to challenge a referee's call.

At the first game stoppage after a contested call, the coach and the referee would meet on the sideline to look at television replays. "The referee may then change his mind," says Blatter, and reverse the call. That envisions a short, amiable little chat between the two, after which the referee might cancel a goal or award a penalty kick.

I wonder about that. Surely the opposing coach must be allowed to have his say, thereby changing the chats into disputes, which I cannot imagine being either short or amiable.

Anyway, this is a decidedly odd idea for Blatter to come up with, given that it was precisely because Blatter would not countenance stoppages in the game while replays were viewed that led to his insistence on the costly development of "real time" goal-line technology.

Blatter has given no reason for his sudden wish for challenge calls, but it's impossible not to read it as a criticism of referees. Can it possibly be an encouragement for positive, authoritative officiating if the ref knows any difficult call he makes can be promptly challenged, and he may have to – very publicly – back down?

Whatever, it must be that Blatter believes giving the coaches the right to dispute certain referee calls will improve the game; a worthy aim that lines Blatter up alongside Jose Mourinho, who has recently given us his scintillating idea for improving the game. Coaches, says Mourinho, should be allowed to call one time-out in each half.

This idea is not original and was tried out by FIFA during the Under-17 World Cup in Ecuador in 1995. I was at that tournament. The very first time-out was called by Ecuador, the home team. It was greeted by a raucous cacophony of whistles and jeers. The fans simply hated the interruption.

Of the total number of time-outs that could have been called during the tournament, fewer than half were used. Most coaches disliked the idea (a few refused to use it at all), while those who liked it generally claimed to do so for a reason that would not apply at the pro level: that these were young players who needed the extra coaching. The experiment was not repeated.

Rather deplorably, Mourinho is evidently unaware of any of this. He tells us that adopting time-outs will "make the game better". As evidence he cites what happened during this summer's World Cup when a fortuitous water break enabled Holland coach Louis Van Gaal to speak with his players and make a tactical change – after which they came from behind to beat Mexico 2-1.

> To increase the influence of the coach is not a good idea. I would like to outlaw coaching from the sidelines

That, of course is *post hoc* reasoning, which may or may not explain what happened. Certainly the game became "better" for the Dutch, though not so for the vast majority of neutral observers. Mexico, who had played the more attractive and lively football, were eliminated, while Holland, who got more pedestrian with each game they played, stayed in the tournament.

Both Blatter's and Mourinho's suggested improvements should be rejected. No great study of them is required because they are both fatally flawed from the start because both of them are designed to increase the role of the coach during the game.

To increase the influence of the coach when he already has too much – he has, for some years now, with the connivance of our flaccid rule-makers, been turning himself into a 12th player – is not a good idea. I would be much more delighted with a reinstatement of the rule that used to outlaw coaching from the sidelines.

Let the coach do his work during training. During the game's 90 minutes, give the game back to the players. WS

"They will have to go without their whistle for a certain period"

**Franck De Bleeckere, head of the Belgian referees' office, announces match officials Jerome Nzolo and Christof Virant will not be able to take charge of top-flight games after failing physicals**

# PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

## EUROPE

**FERNANDO SANTOS**, who has coached all of Portugal's big three club sides and was in charge of Greece at this summer's World Cup finals, replaced Paulo Bento as boss of Portugal's national team. **ALEXANDRU CURTIANU** took over from Ion Caras as coach of Moldova.

**JOSEF ZINNBAUER** replaced Mirko Slomka as Hamburg coach after just three games of the season, with the club sitting bottom of the Bundesliga.

**JOHN STEGEMAN** took over from Jan De Jonge as coach of Heracles after they lost their first four games in the Eredivisie.

Former Portugal international **RICARDO SA PINTO** replaced Giorgos Paraschos as coach of Greek Superleague side Atromitos.

Former Chelsea and France midfielder **FLORENT MALOUDA** joined Metz in Ligue 1 after being released by Turkish side Trabzonspor.

Ex-England striker **ANDREW JOHNSON**, who was a free agent after being released by Queens Park Rangers at the end of last season, agreed a short-term deal until January with former club Crystal Palace.

Benfica signed Brazil striker **JONAS**, who had been without a club since being released by Valencia in the summer.

**Back home...Malouda**

Slovenian coach **DARKO MILANIC** left Austrian club Sturm Graz to take charge of English second-tier side Leeds United.

Sligo Rovers manager **JOHN COLEMAN** returned to English fourth-tier side Accrington Stanley after 88 days in charge of the Irish side.

Scottish Premiership side Ross County appointed **JIM McINTYRE** as manager following the sacking of Derek Adams.

**Boca boss...Arruabarrena**

## SOUTH AMERICA

**RODOLFO ARRUABARRENA** replaced Carlos Bianchi as coach of Argentinian side Boca Juniors.

**MARIO YEPES**, the 38-year-old former captain of Colombia's national team, signed for Argentina's San Lorenzo after being released by Italian club Atalanta.

## ASIA

**ULI STIELIKE**, who played 42 times for West Germany and coached Switzerland, took charge of South Korea, replacing Hong Myung-bo who resigned after the World Cup.

Former England midfielder **RAY WILKINS** was named coach of Jordan. He will be assisted by ex-Arsenal and Republic of Ireland forward **FRANK STAPLETON**.

**New assignment...Wilkins**

## Ronaldinho makes surprise switch to Mexico

Former World Player of the Year **RONALDINHO** has signed a two-year contract with Mexican side Queretaro.

Ronaldinho became a free agent in July after cancelling his contract with Atletico Mineiro, where he played a key role in the club's 2013 Libertadores Cup triumph.

The 34-year-old former Paris Saint-Germain, Barcelona and Milan star had been linked with clubs in India and England, and was the subject of an audacious bid from sixth-tier English side Basingstoke Town.

Queretaro are currently challenging for a place in the Liga MX play-offs, having avoided relegation to the second division after relocating the Jaguares de Chiapas franchise to the city of Queretaro.

The club's ambitious owner Olegario Vazquez, who took over the club earlier this year, downplayed concerns over the player's fitness and nocturnal habits.

Ronaldinho said he would wear the number 49 shirt in Mexico as it was his lucky number. "I chose Mexico for the affection I have always received here," he said.

Ronaldinho enjoyed a mixed start on the pitch. He missed a 61st-minute penalty as his side lost 1-0 at home to Tigres in the Cup but converted a sixth-minute penalty in a 4-1 win over Guadalajara in the League.

"The pitch is not up to the standard of a UEFA qualifier. But I don't want to make a protest because I want other teams to come here"

**Wales manager Chris Coleman after his side's game on the 3G surface in Andorra**

## Transfers, sackings and loans

### CONCACAF

Former USA defender **GREG VANNEY** was handed his first head coach's job in MLS, taking over from Ryan Nelson as boss of Toronto.

Chicago Fire signed former Liverpool and Atletico Madrid striker **FLORENT SINAMA-PONGOLLE**, who won one cap for France, from Russian side Rostov. Austrian international defender **EMANUEL POGATETZ** joined Columbus Crew.

### EUROPE

**ATTILA PINTER** was sacked by Hungary after eight months, and only one competitive game, following the 2-1 home defeat by Northern Ireland in the Euro 2016 qualifying campaign.

**Early exit...Pinter**

Lokomotiv Moscow sacked coach **LEONID KUCHUK** after the side made a disappointing start to the Russian Premier League season.

Cardiff City and Fulham, who were both relegated from the Premier League last season, parted company with their respective managers, **OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER** and **FELIX MAGATH**.

### CONCACAF

Chivas USA defender **CARLOS BOCANEGRA**, who won 110 caps and captained the US 64 times, is to retire at the end of the MLS season.

### AFRICA

**KWESI APPIAH** stepped down as coach of Ghana after almost two-and-a-half years in the job.

**PHILIPPE TROUSSIER** resigned as CS Sfaxien coach after the Tunisian club were beaten in the semi-finals of the CAF Champions League by Vita Club of DR Congo.

Ivory Coast midfielder **DIDIER ZOKORA**, who won a record 121 caps for his country, announced his international retirement.

Northern Irish coach **JOHNNY MCKINSTRY** was sacked by Sierra Leone after they lost their two opening Africa Nations Cup qualifiers.

### ASIA

Palestine coach **JAMAL MAHMOUD** has resigned, despite qualifying the team for January's Asian Cup in Australia. Saeb Jendeya was named interim replacement.

**Gone...Mahmoud**

## Stressed Van Basten steps aside at AZ

Former Holland coach **MARCO VAN BASTEN** has stepped down as boss of Eredivisie side AZ following concerns over his health.

Van Basten, who turns 50 at the end of October, joined AZ in the summer after agreeing a two-year contract but had been on leave following a period of ill-health.

He had been reported as suffering from stress-related heart palpitations following the death of his father earlier this year.

AZ had hoped that he would recover and return to his position as head coach, but Van Basten will now become assistant coach with responsibility for developing the club's young talent.

"I have found that in recent times the role of head coach was causing me increasing physical and mental discomfort," Van Basten said.

"I worked hard at it, because I find being a coach a great and interesting job. I tried to put this off for as long as possible, but you reach a point where you say: 'This is something that keeps coming back', and then you have to make a choice.

"The stress I experienced as a head coach was much more than I would have liked," he said. "It [the palpitations] has happened to me several times over the years. I thought I could overcome it and that things would get better.

"That is why I asked AZ to change my responsibility to better suit me and so that I can continue."

Van Basten steered Holland to the quarter-finals of the 2008 European Championship. He also coached Ajax from 2008 until he resigned in 2009, saying he did not consider himself up to the job.

AZ had hoped to promote Van Basten's assistant Alex Pastoor to the position of head coach but Pastoor did not want to take the role.

"We made him an improved offer but he did not agree to it," said club director Earnest Stewart. "In our last discussion we came to the conclusion it would be better for us to part ways."

# Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

## Ethics? FIFA is keeping its secrets – even from Blatter

Shameless and implacable, FIFA has once again spat in the face of international football. Now we are brusquely told by a hitherto unmentioned autocrat, a German lawyer, Hans-Joachim Eckert, chairman of – wait for it – the judiciary chamber of the so-called ethics committee, that the report will be read only by himself and his deputy. Not even by the ineffable Sepp Blatter.

The question which instantly presents itself is, why then did FIFA bother to commission a report at all? One which reportedly cost some £6million and whose author, the American lawyer Michael Garcia – who produced a 360-page report with 200,000 pages of evidence – is properly and predictably infuriated.

The irony is that this report, as we know, could not possibly have been complete since, at the urgent insistence of FIFA, Garcia was told he must complete it before the start of the World Cup in Brazil – though Heaven knows why, since it would not be presented until many weeks after the tournament was ended and this could hardly cast a shadow over it, unless it be a retrospective one. And the damning *Sunday Times* report had not been available to Garcia, with its myriad of email evidence.

Judge Eckert informs us that he may – and how generous of him – order Garcia to produce more evidence from those millions of documents acquired by *The Sunday Times*. And then? In his infinite condescension, he told us he will make a statement on his progress in October, ("If I need some more information I will tell Mr Garcia...I will get it"). But what would he do with it? Charges could implicitly be brought against individual administrators but under such a cloak of bizarre secrecy, how seriously could they be taken?

It is rumoured that, during his investigation, Garcia found so many of those countries bidding to stage the World Cups of 2018 and 2022 had infringed the regulations that he would not suggest punishment for the winners, Qatar and Russia – themselves deeply suspect. Qatar, meanwhile, are bang to rights following their pathetically inadequate attempt to deny all knowledge and involvement with Mohamed Bin Hammam, whose millions of dollars have been shown to have bought the necessary votes.

> The question presenting itself is why did FIFA bother to commission a report at all?

That Eckert can withhold all the evidence of such a report seems, on the face of it, inexplicable. Never, until now, have we been told that the Garcia report would be locked in secrecy, to be seen only by Eckert and his Aussie deputy.

One assumes that Blatter must have known about such absurd legal restrictions, but if so why did he not make them clear after commissioning the report? Perhaps because in the last analysis they simply suited him.

If there is a glimmer of hope it comes not from the inevitable international outcry but in the words of a Swiss parliamentarian. Roland Buchel has warned FIFA it could lose its advantageous tax status in the country were it not to reform. "They have been talking for three years about transparency," he says. "And they are simply not doing it. They talk about ethics and don't take any action."

Of course they don't. They never have. Least of all in the dim, dingy and infinitely corrupt 24 years in which, against all moral rectitude, Joao Havelange was in presidential charge.

Now Blatter looks set for another four years in office, his fifth term. Well he still has quite a way to catch up with Havelange. But can our Serious Fraud Office intervene?

**At odds...investigator Garcia (left) and judge Eckert have differing views regarding who should see Garcia's report**

## More gaffes from Platini

So where within football itself is the revolution coming? Hardly from UEFA as a body, led as it so inadequately by Michel Platini. And now, within days of each other, two more major gaffes from the man at the top.

First, Platini breathes fire and brimstone against Franck Ribery for daring to declare he no longer wanted to play for France. This, said a ludicrously outraged Platini, infringed a FIFA rule that a player picked for his country must consent, for fear of condign punishment.

Whether the rule exists, I find it hard to remember it ever having been applied. After West Germany won the World Cup in 1974, Gerd Muller, who scored the winning goal in the Final, and left-back Paul Breitner (though he ultimately changed his mind and played in the 1982 team) retired from international football. Johan Cruyff and Franz Beckenbauer snubbed 1978. Much more recently, Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard similarly retired. As indeed, in the early 1970s, so did the greatest of them all, Pele. None of these or the many others who also retired from the international game faced any penalty.

It also transpires Platini was one of the majority of the FIFA executive committee who hung on to his £16,540 Parmigiani watch, a gift from the Brazilian Confederation that was also given to a representative of each participating nation at the World Cup. Both Platini and Greg Dyke, chairman of the Football Association, did not at first return the watches, although FIFA regulations state clearly only gifts of minimal value can be accepted. Apart from that, such a gift would supposedly have been liable to substantial tax. Some who had received these watches, knowing the regulations, quickly returned them. Platini didn't, declaring he would keep the watch but donate its value to charity. A grandiose enough gesture but hardly conforming with FIFA regulations.

**Hot and bothered... Ribery's decision to quit international football has outraged Platini**

## Memories of Moore

**A captain's tale...Moore and Romania's Mircea Lucescu exchange emblems at the 1970 World Cup**

Matt Dickinson's *Bobby Moore: The Man In Full* (Yellow Jersey Press, £20) is a book of unusual merit, supremely well researched and often revelatory. He quoted me in his introduction as saying that "I knew him for almost 40 years but I'm not sure I knew him at all".

Indeed, when it was known that Bobby had been released from house arrest in Bogota in 1970, falsely accused of stealing a bracelet at the Tequendana hotel, and was flying to join the England squad in Guadalajara, *The Sunday Times* asked me to write a profile of him. And I realised that despite the many times we had met and spoken, I'd no idea where to start. In the end Geoff Hurst kindly and virtually did it for me.

It's shocking to be reminded that Bobby, in his playing retirement, was once asked to leave the stand at West Ham United to whom he had given so much, having walked in to watch a game. And to know how his cancer had gone so long undiagnosed, condemning him to such an early death.

## Distracted Dyke is not up to the job

As a result of his recent behaviour, Greg Dyke has come under stinging attack from *The Sunday Times* columnist, and hero of the Lance Armstrong doping scandal in which he scored a gallant ultimate victory, David Walsh, who feels that Dyke should now resign – though he duly gives him credit for rebuking Sep Blatter over his fatuous accusations of racism when the same newspaper first blew the whistle on Qatar's corrupt acquisition of the 2022 World Cup.

According to Walsh: "Dyke has now lost the right to question anyone on ethics. I think he is fortunate to still be in charge of the Football Association."

For my part, Dyke has at no time been a convincing chairman, least of all when, at the announcement of World Cup seedings in Brazil for the 2014 Finals, hearing the draw for England's group, he crassly drew his finger across his throat. Time, and England's dull performance, may have given his crude gesture a certain relevance, but it was hardly for one in his position to make.

> His attempts at potential reforms of the English game have met with minimal enthusiasm

Last season, he failed to attend a couple of England games at Wembley. His attempts at potential reforms of the English game have met with minimal enthusiasm. To me, he appears what one might call a multifarious blowhard with a plethora of obligations and appointments which, as on the occasion of those two Wembley games, can take precedence to his function as FA chairman.

Is there anybody better in sight? Not really. The FA has been a rudderless ship ever since Stanley Rous in 1962 quit to become the president of FIFA.

**Under fire...FA chairman Dyke**

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# Spend, spend, spend

By Gavin Hamilton

Across Europe, clubs are curbing in their transfer expenditure to comply with UEFA's Financial Fairplay regulations, but **Manchester United** are in the middle of one of the biggest spending sprees in the history of the game

The 2014-15 Premier League season was already three games old when Manchester United confirmed the deadline-day arrivals of Colombian striker Radamel Falcao, on a year-long loan from Monaco, and Holland midfielder Daley Blind, a £15million signing from Ajax.

Two weeks later, the pair made their United debuts alongside Argentina World Cup star Angel Di Maria, who was hugely impressive and scored in a 4-0 win over Queens Park Rangers following his record £66m transfer from Real Madrid.

The new era under Louis Van Gaal, which had got off to such a shaky start with a home league defeat to Swansea City and a 4-0 humiliation to third-tier MK Dons in the League Cup, suddenly looked brighter.

The cavalry had arrived, in the form of a late transfer-window financial injection from the United board.

The Glazer family, which has taken more out of the club in interest payments over the past decade than it spent in backing Alex Ferguson in the transfer market, suddenly felt compelled to reverse the trend.

United's reported £150m spend in the summer transfer window – which was more like £170m – was considerably more than the next biggest spenders. When fees received from Danny Welbeck (to Arsenal), Shinji Kagawa (returning to Borussia Dortmund) and others (see page 26) are taken into account, the net spend was more than £133m.

**United's dealing in the summer transfer market was not a carefully planned strategy; it was more of a panicked supermarket sweep**

A year earlier, United's failure to sign Ander Herrera from Athletic Bilbao had exposed rookie chief executive Ed Woodward's lack of experience in the transfer market. The main signing of summer 2013, Marouane Fellaini, failed to shine under Ferguson's anointed replacement, David Moyes, and United were forced to act in the January window, paying what was at the time a club record fee of £37m for Juan Mata.

A year on, and United's summer transfer strategy raises as many questions as it answers.

Having failed to qualify for the Champions League in the first season of the post Ferguson era, the need to rebuild the squad was clear. Yet this was not a carefully planned strategy; it was more a panicked supermarket sweep.

United's preparations were undoubtedly disrupted by Van Gaal's commitment to Holland at the World Cup. He did not arrive in Manchester until mid-July, when only deals for Herrera (a year on) and Luke Shaw (at £33m the most expensive teenager in English football) were complete.

Marquee signing Di Maria was signed less than a week before the transfer window closed, with Falcao and Blind arriving on deadline day. Even Marcos Rojo, signed from Benfica in mid-August, was not cleared to play until September because of work-permit delays.

**Newboys...Falcao (left) and Blind with Van Gaal**

**Early...Suarez joined Barcelona in July**

By contrast, Barcelona's signing of Luis Suarez, the single biggest deal of the summer, went through on July 16 – despite the controversy surrounding the Uruguayan's World Cup ban. Chelsea, having sold David Luiz to Paris Saint-Germain before the World Cup finals had kicked off, signed Cesc Fabregas from Barcelona in early June, while deals with Atletico Madrid for Diego Costa and Filipe Luis were agreed by mid-July.

Manchester City agreed a deal for their main summer target, the midfielder Fernando from Porto, in June, while Arsenal's signing of Alexis Sanchez was completed before the World Cup finished.

Bayern Munich moved late in the window to sign Xabi Alonso from Real Madrid, but only because they needed a replacement for the injured Javi Martinez. Even before the transfer window had opened, Bayern had secured one of the signatures of the summer in striker

In and out... Liverpool invested the Suarez money on players such as Lallana

**Real Madrid's summer signings were typically headline-grabbing: Navas, Rodriguez and Kroos cost over £100m**

Robert Lewandowski, on a free transfer from Borussia Dortmund.

Before the transfer window opened, the United hierarchy knew of the impending departures of Nemanja Vidic, Rio Ferdinand and Patrice Evra. Yet United failed to sign a centre-back, prompting former captain Gary Neville to claim that another £100m will have to be spent in the January window on a new central defender and a central midfielder.

From a pure footballing perspective, United's summer signings have left the squad unbalanced. Four of the new arrivals – Di Maria, Rojo, Blind and Shaw – are left footed, but none are the commanding centre-back that United desperately require.

Restructuring United for the post-Ferguson era could prove to be the most expensive rebuilding exercise football has ever seen.

Without the money recouped through the deadline-day sales of Welbeck and Kagawa, United's net summer spend would have been the biggest of all time, eclipsing even Real Madrid's summer 2009 deals for Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka, Xabi Alonso and Karim Benzema, whose total net cost was £155m. Similarly, if the fee paid for Mata last January is added to the summer 2014 outlay, United's calendar year spending would make it the biggest in the history of the game.

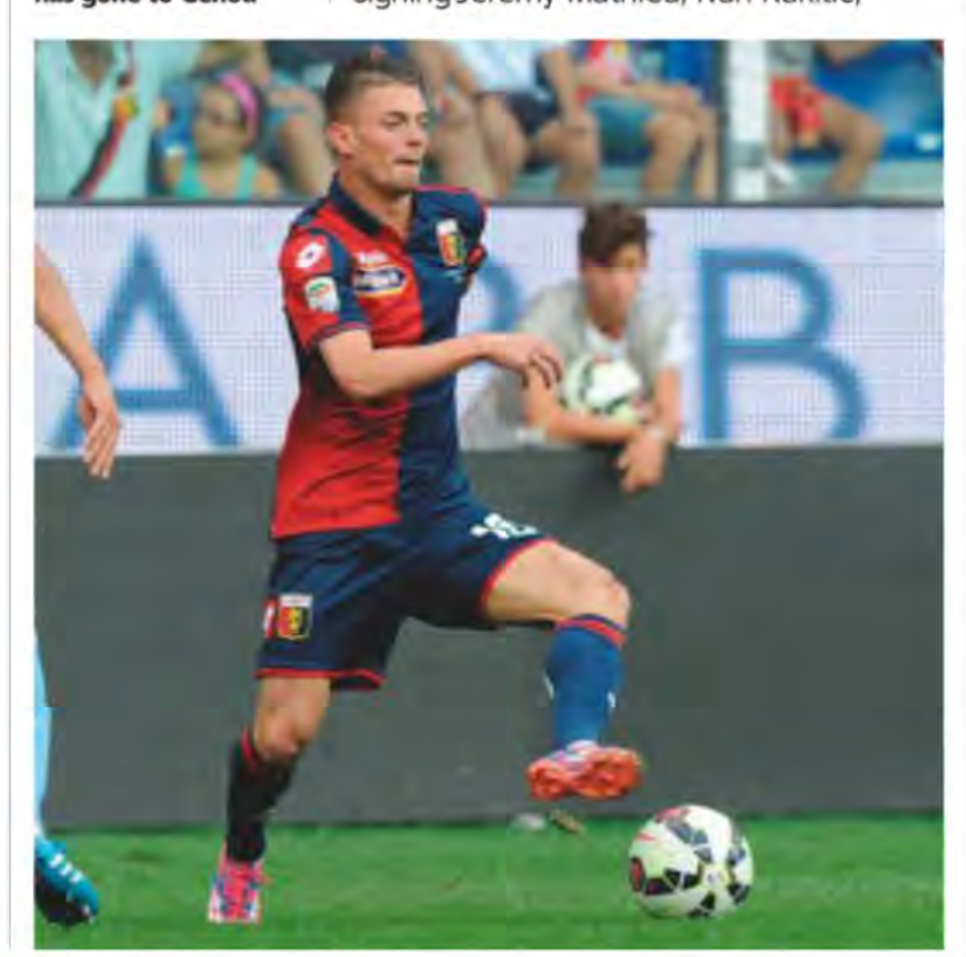
Madrid's 2009 spending coincided with the return as club president of Florentino Perez, who had promised major signings, notably Ronaldo for a world-record fee.

Not surprisingly, the biggest individual window spending has coincided with the arrival of wealthy new owners – be they Dmitry Rybolovlev at Monaco in 2013, Roman Abramovich at Chelsea in 2003 and 2004, Sheikh Mansour at Manchester City in 2008 and 2009, and the Qatar royal family at Paris Saint-Germain in 2012 and 2013 (see table, page 28). In all of these cases, the net spend was more notable because little money was recouped from the sale of players deemed surplus to requirements.

Free...Lewandowski cost Bayern nothing in transfer fees

In contrast, two of the biggest spenders this summer, Barcelona and Liverpool, earned significant sums from the sale of players. Barcelona may have paid a record fee for Suarez, while also signing Jeremy Mathieu, Ivan Rakitic, Claudio Bravo and Thomas Vermaelen, but they earned significant fees from the departures of Sanchez to Arsenal and Fabregas to Chelsea.

Loan...Lestienne has gone to Genoa



Liverpool's gross spend was significant – some £133m on the likes of Adam Lallana and Dejan Lovren from Southampton, Lazar Markovic from Benfica and Mario Balotelli from Milan. But their net spend was just over £50m, thanks to the fee received for Suarez.

Two surprise inclusions in this summer's top 10 net spenders (pages 26-27) are Everton and West Ham United, while Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City, two of the biggest spenders of the past 10 years (see table, page 28) were relatively modest with their financial outlay this summer.

One unexpected club in the top 10 is Al Arabi of Qatar. Their signings included Ashkan Dejagah from Fulham and Pablo Hernandez from Swansea, while Belgian winger Maxime Lestienne was signed from Club Brugge and then loaned to Serie A side Genoa for the season.

Other traditional big spenders failed to make the top 10 because of a low net spend.

Real Madrid's summer signings were typically headline-grabbing, with World Cup stars James Rodriguez, Toni Kroos and Keylor Navas costing in excess of £100m. However, the departures of Di Maria (Manchester United), Alvaro Morata (Juventus), Alonso (Bayern Munich) and Nuri Sahin (Borussia Dortmund) reduced Madrid's outlay to less than £8m.

Chelsea paid out almost as much as Madrid for Fabregas, Diego Costa, Filipe

Luis and Loic Remy, but recouped hefty fees for David Luiz (PSG) and Romelu Lukaku (Everton), as well as Demba Ba (Besiktas) and Patrick Van Aanholt (Sunderland), to reduce their net spending to less than £10m.

Bayern, having signed Lewandowski for free, spent heavily on a new central defender, Mehdi Benatia from Roma, but earned more from the sale of Kroos to Real Madrid and Mario Mandzukic to Atletico to more than cover their outlay.

Similarly, Atletico were able to use the fee received for Diego Costa and Filipe Luis to fund a major overhaul of their squad. New signings included France World Cup star Antoine Griezmann.

Over the past 10 years, Manchester United are the fifth-biggest net spenders in world football, behind Manchester City, Real Madrid, Chelsea and PSG. Their spending over the past 12 months, since the retirement of Ferguson, has made them the third-highest net spender in the past five years, behind PSG and Man City.

And the spending may not be over yet, especially if Neville's advice on central defenders and a commanding central midfielder are heeded.

Despite the Glazers taking hundreds

Impressive...Costa has made a fine start to his Chelsea career

# TOP TEN net spenders summer 2014

* loan fee

| MAN UNITED | £133.63m |
|---|---|
| **IN** | **£170.38M** |
| Angel Di Maria (below) Real Madrid | £66m |
| Luke Shaw Southampton | £33m |
| Ander Herrera Athletic Bilbao | £31.68m |
| Marcos Rojo Benfica | £17.6m |
| Daley Blind Ajax | £15.4m |
| Falcao Monaco | £6.7m* |
| **OUT** | **£36.75M** |
| Danny Welbeck Arsenal | £17.6m |
| Shinji Kagawa Borussia Dortmund | £7.04m |
| Alexander Buttner Dynamo Moscow | £4.84m |
| Bebe Benfica | £2.64m |
| Javier Hernandez Real Madrid | £2.2m |
| Patrice Evra Juventus | £1.32m |
| Tom Lawrence Leicester | £1.11m |

| ARSENAL | £76.59m |
|---|---|
| **IN** | **£89.52M** |
| Alexis Sanchez (below) Barcelona | £37.4m |
| Calum Chambers Southampton | £17.8m |
| Danny Welbeck Arsenal | £17.6m |
| Mathieu Debuchy Newcastle | £13.2m |
| David Ospina Nice | £3.52m |
| **OUT** | **£12.93** |
| Thomas Vermaelen Barcelona | £8.8m |
| Johan Djorou Hamburg | £2.46m |
| Ignasi Miquel | |

| BARCELONA | £68.82m |
|---|---|
| **IN** | **£138.16M** |
| Luis Suarez (below) Liverpool | £71.28m |
| Jeremy Mathieu Valencia | £17.6m |
| Ivan Rakitic Sevilla | £15.84m |
| Marc-Andre Ter Stegen Monchengladbach | £10.56m |
| Claudio Bravo Real Sociedad | £10.56m |
| Thomas Vermaelen Arsenal | £8.8m |
| Douglas Sao Paulo | £3.52m |
| **OUT** | **£69.34M** |
| Alexis Sanchez Arsenal | £37.4m |
| Cesc Fabregas Chelsea | £29.04m |
| Cristian Tello Porto | £1.58m* |
| Jonathan Dos Santos | |

| LIVERPOOL | £51.45m |
|---|---|
| **IN** | **£133.25M** |
| Adam Lallana Southampton | £27.28m |
| Dejan Lovren Southampton | £22.26m |
| Lazar Markovic Benfica | £22m |
| Mario Balotelli Milan | £17.6m |
| Alberto Moreno Sevilla | £15.84m |
| Divock Origi Lille | £11.11m |
| Emre Can Bayer Leverkusen | £10.56m |
| Rickie Lambert Southampton | £4.84m |
| Javier Manquillo Atletico Madrid | £1.76m* |
| **OUT** | **£81.8M** |
| Luis Suarez Barcelona | £71.28m |
| Daniel Agger Brondby | £3.52m |
| Pepe Reina Bayern Munich | £2.64m |
| Martin Kelly Crystal Palace | £1.76m |
| Jack Robinson QPR | £1.1m |
| Oussama Assaidi Stoke | £1.1m* |
| Conor Coady Huddersfield | £0.4m |

of millions out of the club to cover the debt repayments on their leveraged buyout of the club, United's commercial deals allow them to spend significant amounts in the transfer market.

The club's latest accounts published revealed a record £189m in commercial revenue from sponsors for 2013-14, an increase of 24 per cent, from a total revenue of £433m. That figure is set to increase with the world-record kit deal that was agreed with Adidas. Worth £750m over the next decade – twice what Real Madrid earn from their contract with the German sportswear company – it will be a considerable upgrade on the current £30m-a-year deal with Nike.

While Woodward may have struggled to find his feet as a transfer-market wheeler and dealer, there can be no denying his expertise is extracting maximum revenues from United's commercial sponsorship deals.

At the last count, United has 30 "commercial partners", the latest being Abengoa, who are the club's "Official Sustainable Technology Partner".

Abengoa, a Spanish company, joins such operations as Japanese noodle firm Nissin, DHL (official logistics partner)

← Wheeler dealer... Woodward

**Woodward is an expert at extracting maximum revenue from deals**

Kansai Paint (official paint partner), Singha (beer), Casillero Del Diablo (official wine), Bulova (watches), Bakcell (official telecommunications and broadcast partner for Azerbaijan) and Wahaha (soft

↓ Team...United and one of their many commercial partners

## B DORTMUND £45.4m

| IN | £47.6M |
|---|---|
| Ciro Immobile, Torino | £17.06m |
| Matthias Ginter, Freiburg | £8.8m |
| Adrian Ramos, Hertha Berlin | £8.54m |
| Shinji Kagawa, Manchester United | £7.04m |
| Nuri Sahin, Real Madrid | £6.16m |
| **OUT** | **£2.2M** |
| Julian Schieber, Hertha Berlin | £2.2m |

## PSG £42.24m

| IN | £43.56M |
|---|---|
| David Luiz (below), Chelsea | £43.56m |
| **OUT** | **£1.32M** |
| Christophe Jallet, Lyon | £1.32m |

## EVERTON £33.67m

| IN | £35.34 |
|---|---|
| Romelu Lukaku (below), Chelsea | £31.12m |
| Muhamed Besic, Ferencvaros | £4.22m |
| **OUT** | **£1.67M** |
| Shane Duffy, Blackburn Rovers | £1.67m |

## AL-ARABI £32.82m

| IN | £32.82M |
|---|---|
| Maxime Lestienne, Club Brugge | £8.8m |
| Paulinho, Livorno | £7.04m |
| Imoh Ezekiel, Standard Liege | £7.04m |
| Ashkan Dejagah, Fulham | £5.54m |
| Pablo Hernandez, Swansea | £4.4m |

## MANCHESTER CITY £29m

| IN | £57.64M |
|---|---|
| Eliaquim Mangala, Porto | £35.2m |
| Fernando, Porto | £13.2m |
| Willy Caballero, Malaga | £7.04m |
| Bruno Zuculini, Racing Club | £2.2m |
| **OUT** | **£28.64M** |
| Javi Garcia, Zenit St Petersburg | £14.78m |
| Jack Rodwell, Sunderland | £11.09m |
| Emyr Huws, Wigan | £2.77m |

## WEST HAM £25.23m

| IN | £29.1M |
|---|---|
| Enner Valencia, Pachuca | £13.2m |
| Cheikhou Kouyate, Anderlecht | £6.6m |
| Diafra Sakho, Bastia | £4.4m |
| Aaron Cresswell, Ipswich | £4.1m |
| Morgan Amalfitano, Marseille | £0.8m |
| **OUT** | **£3.87M** |
| Mohamed Diame, Hull | £3.87m |

## OTHERS

### ATLETICO MADRID £19.86m

| IN | £96.82 | |
|---|---|---|
| Antoine Griezmann | Real Sociedad | £26.4m |
| Mario Mandzukic | Bayern Munich | £19.36m |
| Jan Oblak | Benfica | £14.08m |
| Alessio Cerci | Torino | £13.2m |
| Raul Jimenez | America | £9.24m |
| Guilherme Siqueira | Granada | £8.8m |
| Miguel Angel | Moya Getafe | £2.64m |
| Jesus Gamez | Malaga | £2.2m |
| Emiliano Velazquez | Danubio | £0.9m |
| **OUT** | **£76.96M** | |
| Diego Costa | Chelsea | £33.4m |
| Filipe Luis | Chelsea | £17.6m |
| Adrian | Porto | £9.68m |
| Roberto | Olympiakos | £5.28m |
| Josuha Guilavogui | Wolfsburg | £4.84m |
| Sergio Asenjo | Villarreal | £4.4m |
| Javier Manquillo | Liverpool | £1.76m* |

### CHELSEA £9.72m

| IN | £93.86M | |
|---|---|---|
| Diego Costa | Atletico Madrid | £33.4m |
| Cesc Fabregas | Barcelona | £29.04m |
| Filipe Luis | Atletico Madrid | £17.6m |
| Loic Remy | QPR | £11.62m |
| Mario Pasalic | Hajduk Split | £2.2m |
| **OUT** | **£84.14M** | |
| David Luiz | Paris Saint-Germain | £43.56m |
| Romelu Lukaku | Everton | £31.12m |
| Demba Ba | Besiktas | £5.28m |
| Patrick Van Aanholt | Sunderland | £1.76m |
| Thorgan Hazard | Monchengladbach | £1.32m* |
| George Saville | Wolves | £1.1m |

### REAL MADRID £7.92M

| IN | £107.8M | |
|---|---|---|
| James Rodriguez | Monaco | £70.4m |
| Toni Kroos | Bayern Munich | £26.4m |
| Keylor Navas | Levante | £8.8m |
| Chicharito | Manchester United | £2.2m* |
| **OUT** | **£99.88M** | |
| Angel Di Maria | Manchester United | £66m |
| Alvaro Morata | Juventus | £17.6m |
| Xabi Alonso | Real Madrid | £8.8m |
| Nuri Sahin | Borussia Dortmund | £6.16m |
| Casemiro | Porto | £1.32m* |

### BAYERN MUNICH -£1.76m

| IN | £44.88M | |
|---|---|---|
| Mehdi Benatia | Roma | £24.64m |
| Juan Bernat | Valencia | £8.8m |
| Xabi Alonso | Real Madrid | £8.8m |
| Pepe Reina | Liverpool | £2.64m |
| **OUT** | **£46.64M** | |
| Toni Kroos | Real Madrid | £26.4m |
| Mario Mandzukic | Atletico Madrid | £19.36m |
| Diego Contento | Bordeaux | £0.88m |

drink partner in China).

With new sponsors adding millions to the coffers every year, the effects of missing out on the Champions League will not be felt by United. There is no danger of the club falling foul of UEFA's Financial Fairplay (FFP) regulations – not least because they are not competing in Europe this season, and on current form will struggle to return to UEFA's top table in 2015.

If and when United return to the Champions League, they are aware of the need to comply with UEFA's rules, even from their strong financial position. The signing of Falcao from Monaco is a case in point – and an example of the "loan and buy" option now being used by a number of United's rivals, for whom Financial Fairplay is already a reality.

Manchester City and PSG have already fallen foul of FFP. They were hit with heavy fines and a reduction of players in their Champions League squads for 2014-15.

UEFA has also launched an investigation into Liverpool, Monaco and five other teams (Internazionale, Sporting Lisbon, Besiktas and Krasnodar) who are competing in Europe this season for the first time since FFP came into play.

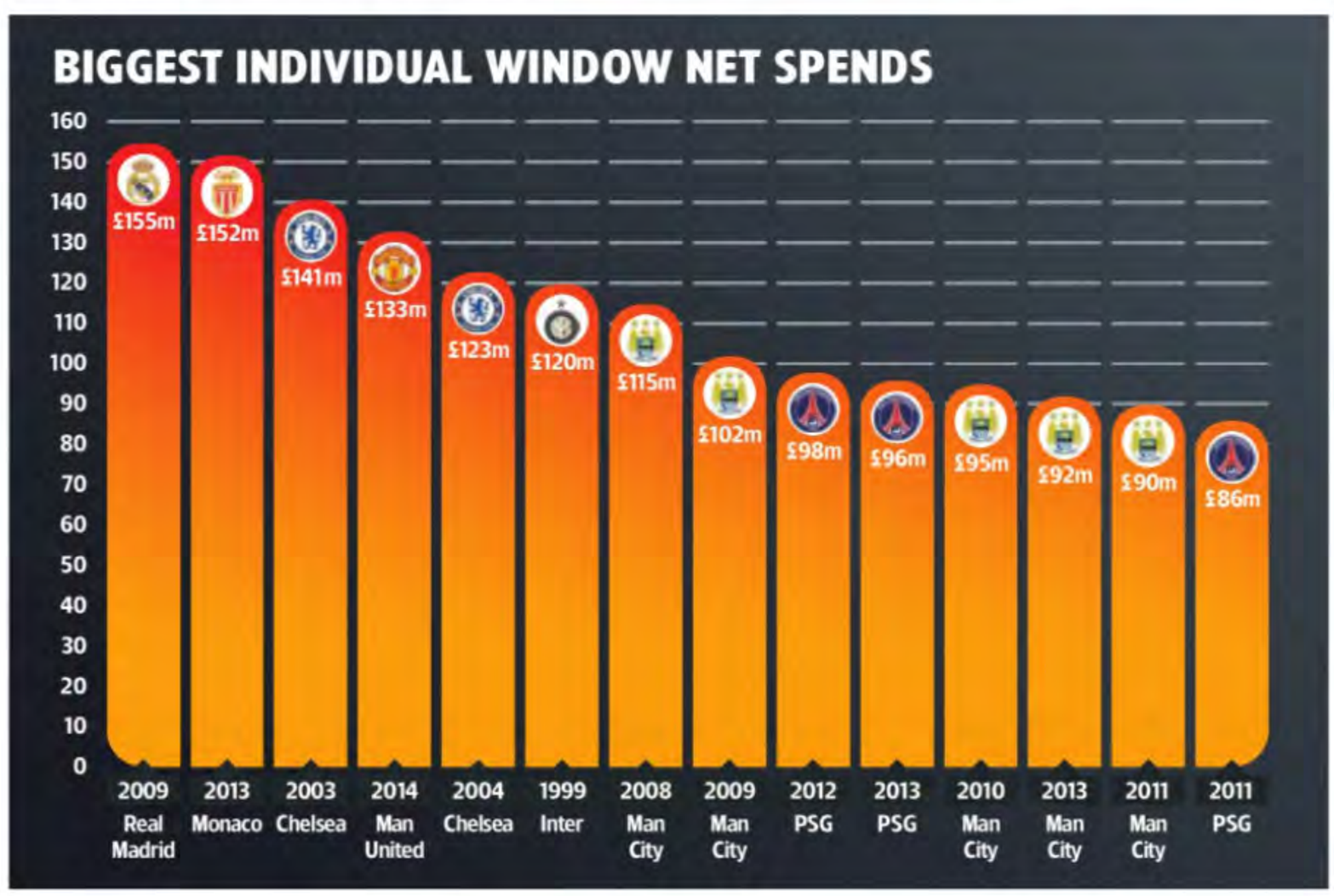
The likes of City, PSG and Chelsea are now curbing their transfer spending, as well as using a number of tactics to bring in additional revenue to comply with FFP.

Chelsea's sale of Lukaku to Everton for more than £30m is a lucrative example of their strategy of recruiting Europe's most talented youngsters. Lukaku was one of almost 30 youngsters "parked" at other European clubs (West Brom in his case) but still owned by Chelsea.

This summer, PSG signed Serge Aurier on loan from Toulouse, with the option to buy the right-back next summer, thus spreading the cost of the signing over a longer accounting period.

And while FFP regulations allow for clubs to write off capital investment in infrastructure, it is as yet unclear whether the "satellite" clubs set up by Manchester City in New York and Melbourne will provide any financial benefit.

UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino has claimed that FFP is playing a positive role in reducing clubs debts across the continent. But while clubs are making a greater effort to become self-sustaining, for Manchester United, the spending is set to continue. WS



↑ Clever...PSG don't have to include Aurier in their accounts yet

↑ Under investigation...UEFA are looking at Monaco's finances

# Dispatches

## Exclusive reports from our worldwide network of correspondents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Wanchope leads *Los Ticos* to a record eighth title in the Centroamericana Cup

SID LOWE
in Madrid

# Familiarity in vogue for 2016

## Despite the changes, Del Bosque's new Spain looks much like the old Spain

"We've taken the first step," said Vicente Del Bosque after Spain returned to competitive football with a 5-1 victory over Macedonia to start their defence of the European Championship they won in 2012 and 2008. The coach described this as a "new era", but the new Spain looked quite like the old Spain – the successful one.

Following a disastrous World Cup, the aim is not so much to reinvent themselves as to re-find themselves.

The Macedonia game, at Levante's Ciutat de Valencia stadium, was a decent start. "Spain recover their style and their belief," ran the headline on the front page of sports daily *AS* the following morning, while *Marca* welcomed "the Spain we want".

Brazil 2014 was always likely to be the end for the most successful generation in Spain's history – the most successful generation in international history, in fact. The hope had been that they would bow out in triumph, with a fourth consecutive title – and in a country that carries a special footballing attraction. Instead, the world champions were the first team knocked out. Beaten by Holland and Chile, it was over almost before it had started; the game still to play, against Australia, rendered meaningless.

They won that 3-0 and left for home. Trudging off the Arena da Baixada in Curitiba with their heads down, few of the players spoke and many would not be back again. They knew this was the end.

David Villa scored the opening goal and left in tears. He had been annoyed to be taken off early, with Del Bosque later admitting he had not been aware of the significance of the match for Spain's all-time top scorer. It was fitting Villa

New beginning...Valencia striker Alcacer (left) impressed on his Spain debut against Macedonia

### DEL BOSQUE'S CHANGES SINCE BRAZIL

**IN**

| Dani Carvajal | Paco Alcacer | Raul Garcia | Mikel San Jose | Kiko Casilla | Munir El Haddadi | Marc Bartra | Ander Iturraspe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1/0) | (2/1) | (1/0) | (1/0) | (0/0) | (1/0) | (2/0) | (2/0) |

**OUT**

| David Villa | Xavi | Xabi Alonso | Fernando Torres | Pepe Reina |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (97/59) | (133/13) | (114/16) | (110/38) | (33/0) |

(games/goals for national team, up to and inc 08.09.14)

After the debacle...Spain line up for their first post-World Cup match, against France in Paris

should go with a goal and, despite his irritation, there were words of gratitude afterwards. He did not announce his international retirement but accepted the time had probably come.

And he was not the only one. Xavi did not speak; he had been a silent presence throughout the tournament. It was not the way he would have wanted to go. Perhaps the most important player in Spain's international history, he spent his final game on the bench. At the end he headed straight down the tunnel, not looking back. He soon announced his retirement.

Xavi's importance could be seen in the overwhelming response from team-mates as Xabi Alonso followed suit. They took the option to go, while others quietly had the decision taken for them.

When Del Bosque named his squad for Spain's first games since the World Cup – a friendly in Paris and the Macedonia qualifier – there was no Xavi, Alonso, Villa or Fernando Torres. Between them, they had 454 caps. Reserve goalkeeper Pepe Reina, who had won 33 caps, was also omitted.

In all, eight of the Brazil squad were left out and some won't be back. Gerard Pique, struggling for fitness, asked not to be called up. Javi Martinez was injured too but will certainly return. Andres Iniesta was included but later pulled out with an injury.

Juan Mata was left out, which seemed curious given his age and that he could hardly be blamed for the failure in Brazil, but a good season at Manchester United might see him recalled. United team-mate Ander Herrera is another who, having been successful at under-21 level, will be in the coach's sights this season.

Herrera has not yet played for Spain. The same was true of Dani Carvajal, Paco Alcacer, Raul Garcia, Mikel San Jose and Kiko Casilla, all of whom were included in the first squad of the new era. Marc Bartra and Ander Iturraspe had one cap each. Then, when Diego Costa was forced to pull out injured, Barcelona's 19-year-old Munir El Haddadi won a first call-up.

> "We lost a bit of our aura in the World Cup, but we must get it back now. And it must be on the pitch, trying to play good football and scoring points to get to Euro 2016" Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque

Del Bosque admitted he had partly called on El Haddadi for convenience. The striker was training with Spain's under-21s at Las Rozas, just above the first-team pitch. He didn't have far to go...even though he had come a very long way.

El Haddadi's parents came to Spain from Morocco, settling in Galapagar, north-west of Madrid, before Barcelona picked up their son when he was about to join Osasuna. Bringing him into the first-team squad and giving him minutes against Macedonia ensured Spain will not lose him to Morocco in the future.

Valencia striker Alcacer, who scored the second of Spain's five goals, had only recently turned 21 and said afterwards: "This is just too perfect." It was tempting to conclude that, stylistically, he is a better fit for Del Bosque than Chelsea striker Costa, thanks to his clever movement in tight spaces and an ability to reach the near post before defenders.

The position of striker has been a constant headache for Spain. Good players have come and gone – Torres, Alvaro Negredo, Roberto Soldado, Michu, and, to some extent, Costa – and it has always felt as if, Villa aside, they do not entirely convince Del Bosque. But Alcacer did convince, and so did Spain. Yet this was not a revolution.

Without Xavi and Alonso the midfield will, inevitably, evolve. This is the biggest challenge they will face. Atletico Madrid's Koke is, for now, in Xavi's role although there will be competition from – or perhaps a partnership with – Thiago Alcantara when he is fit again.

Del Bosque has slowly changed things throughout his tenure, albeit normally in the squad rather than the team. El Haddadi was the 47th player to whom he has handed a debut, and of the starting XI against Macedonia, only Koke and Alcacer represented a really significant break from the familiar-looking Spain.

David De Gea replaced Iker Casillas in Paris but the captain was back against Macedonia for his 157th cap, despite the doubts about his form. Sergio Ramos chipped in another Panenka penalty on his 122nd appearance, and alongside him was Raul Albiol, rarely first choice but with 49 caps going back almost eight years. Cesc Fabregas was playing for the 93rd time and David Silva, on 87 caps, played a central role in the absence of Iniesta.

"People question it at the slightest sign of problems but the style shouldn't be touched," says Silva. "Bit by bit we're getting to know each other and we have started well." WS

HOWARD JOHNSON
in Paris

# Platini's problem with retiring Ribery

## Bayern star must play if he is called up by France, insists UEFA chief

**Over...Deschamps (right) says there is no point calling on Ribery if he does not want to play for France**

Franck Ribery's decision, taken in August, to end his international career with France didn't raise too many eyebrows at first. The 31-year-old Bayern Munich attacking midfielder had missed the World Cup with a niggling back injury and, after winning 81 caps, decided representing his country with 100 per cent commitment was no longer something he was able to do.

This sort of announcement isn't unusual at the conclusion of a World Cup. National coaches are aware that the team they have built to be in peak form for a specific tournament is often at the end of a cycle and that stalwarts will bow out. When England's Steven Gerrard decided to call time on his participation in international football after Brazil to prolong his club career with Liverpool, nobody batted an eyelid, and England manager Roy Hodgson was quick to heap praise on the player for his previous unstinting service.

> "I want to focus on my family and concentrate on my work at Bayern Munich and make way in the national team for the many young and exciting players"
>
> Franck Ribery on announcing his international retirement

So the storm that has subsequently blown up over Ribery's decision has taken many by surprise.

UEFA president and fellow Frenchman Michel Platini – who is no stranger to the odd provocative outburst – lit the blue touchpaper when he pointed out that it was down to a country's football federation, and not the player himself, to decide whether he should be called up to represent the nation. This wasn't just an off-the-cuff remark either, as Platini went on to elaborate further when giving an interview to German newspaper *Bild*.

"If [France coach] Didier Deschamps calls Ribery up and he doesn't show, then he'll be suspended for three matches with Bayern," said Platini. "Those are the written FIFA rules."

Technically, the UEFA boss is right; a rule does exist about international coaches having the right to call up anyone they like. It was put in place to ensure players and clubs can't simply pick and choose the international fixtures for which they want to be available. Clubs have often got around this by their player crying off international duty with an injury, only to be back in action for the club the minute the international window closes.

When it comes to an individual's international retirement, however, there has always been a gentleman's agreement between club and country that the decision should be honoured.

Some people believe France have previous history in this area. Back in 2006, then-coach Raymond Domenech called up Chelsea midfielder Claude Makelele for European Championship qualifiers, despite the player having announced his international retirement at the end of that summer's World Cup. This led to a heated stand-off between Domenech and Makelele's club boss Jose Mourinho, who accused the French of treating the player "like a slave". Makelele eventually backed down, saying he was happy to play for *Les Bleus* after all, but doubts remained.

Platini's latest views have been roundly condemned in Germany, where Ribery's stock is, to be fair, much higher than in his native France. Bayern president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge told *Bild*: "Everything is in order with FIFA and Franck spoke with Didier Deschamps about his decision. In any case, he won't be playing international football."

For his part, an adamant Ribery told German newspaper *Die Welt*: "I have already said I have retired from international duty and I will not go back on my decision. I have discussed this with France coach Deschamps and we reached an agreement on it. I want to focus completely on Bayern Munich in the future. That's all I want to say about the matter. I am not going to get involved in all the politics surrounding my decision."

So it seems clear that Platini is fighting a losing battle here. After all, what is the point in calling someone up for a squad of which he has no wish to be part?

No workplace was ever improved by an unhappy workforce and Deschamps recognised as much. Although he says "if I call a player up, then he has to come", and claims he is capable of taking "radical" decisions if need be, the French boss also wondered aloud: "What's the point of calling someone up who thinks it's better not to be here?"

Having already qualified for Euro 2016 as hosts, France played two friendlies in September without Ribery being named in the squad and posted a 1-0 victory against Spain and a 1-1 draw with Serbia.

Deschamps will no doubt be happy not to insist on the Bayern man's presence. Platini, meanwhile, was still insisting on having the last word, commenting: "Ribery's French and the Euros are in France in 2016. I don't understand his decision." WS

**PHIL GORDON**
in Glasgow

# Reality bites for Celtic boss Deila

## Champions League exit highlights the problems faced by Norwegian

Ronny Deila would not be the first visitor to Scotland to discover that things are very different in real life compared to the brochure.

There are two myths. One is the Loch Ness monster; the other is that Scottish football is a walk in the park. Just ask Roy Keane, who was humiliated on his Celtic debut after joining from Manchester United by a Scottish Cup defeat at lower-league Clyde in January 2006.

Keane, of course, turned down the chance to return to Celtic Park in June to replace Neil Lennon, who opted to leave after a successful four-year tenure because he felt he could take Celtic no further under the spending and wage ceiling imposed by the reigning Scottish Premiership champions.

Deila was handed the job after Keane's rejection, and if the Norwegian coach was an unknown to Celtic supporters – despite his good work in winning the title with Stromsgodset – he made all the right noises by declaring he is a disciple of Jurgen Klopp.

Three months after that unveiling, Deila was struggling to hold onto his reputation. He saw his side knocked out of the Champions League twice – failing against Maribor after being reprieved for Legia Warsaw's error – with only the Europa League for comfort.

Failure to reach the group stage has cost Celtic £20million in lost revenue. It has also put a greater focus on domestic issues – and Deila has not had it easy. A draw with Motherwell on September 21 meant Celtic had dropped seven points in their opening six games.

> "We have not been good enough and we have not deserved to go to the Champions League"
>
> Celtic manager Ronny Deila

Deila also lost at pacesetters Inverness Caledonian Thistle in August, but then every Celtic manager, from Martin O'Neill and Gordon Strachan to Lennon, has that on his CV as the Highlands is always a tough place to go.

If Deila is struggling in comparison to the Lennon side of last season that lost only once – and not until the 25th match of the campaign, at Aberdeen – he can at least console himself with the fact that Lennon had a difficult campaign himself the season before.

That was when Celtic beat Barcelona in the Champions League. Yet although they could defeat the best team in the world, Celtic were far from the best in Scotland. Lennon's side lost before and after beating Barca – to Inverness and Kilmarnock – and dropped 17 points in the opening 14 matches.

So, who says Scottish football is easy? Not Deila, not Keane, and certainly not Strachan, who is now in charge of the national side.

"It would be better for me if we had the finances in Scotland that nobody would need to move," says Strachan. "There are 70 players who used to be in the Scottish Premiership now in the English Championship. If we had kept them here, just think what a fantastic league we could have."

Three of Scotland's top five clubs – Rangers, Hearts and Hibernian – are all in the second tier. And Rangers and Hearts are there because of their financial sins, Hibs are actually a well-run club who make a profit. **WS**

**Back down to earth...Celtic striker John Guidetti, who is on loan from Manchester City, fails to keep his feet against Motherwell in their Scottish Premiership clash**

JAMES MONTAGUE
in Eupen

# Aspire money raises hopes – and questions

## Qatari academy wants to take bankrupt club into the top flight

As he has done on many match days over the past two years, Jeff Gerkens is walking around the quaint old centre of his quiet home town of Eupen, pointing out interesting historical facts to a newly arrived guest.

"This is famous because of the altar here; it is in the Baroque style," explains the former secretary of the town's biggest football club, second division KAS Eupen, as he stands next to Eupen's main church. "It's made of wood, you know," he adds, admiring the entrance as if viewing it for the first time.

Since retiring from overseeing his club's rise towards their one, disastrous season in the top flight, Gerkens now works as a kind of unofficial club PR man and town historian, briefing the surprisingly large number of foreign guests who started to arrive in Eupen from 2012.

**The only way is up...Eupen's young players are ready to challenge for the Belgian second division title**

"You see a lot of new people coming here, from the Middle East," he says. "But we don't mind at all. They saved the club."

The 2010-11 season that Eupen spent in the top flight almost destroyed the club. Two different foreign investors, from Italy and Germany, ploughed money in, but bankruptcy and jail time followed. "They had already spent next year's money," Gerkens says of the previous owners. Relegation ruined them. With the club on the verge of liquidation, Aspire stepped in.

In one of the most unlikely foreign takeovers in recent memory, Eupen were bought by the Aspire Academy – a lavish project in Qatar funded by the state as part of the Emirate's expansionist ambitions, both on the pitch and off it.

"It is the best thing to happen here," says Thomas Evers, a sports reporter for the *Grenz-Echo*, Belgium's only German language daily newspaper. "All the people in Eupen asked the same question: why Eupen?

"I was quite surprised, we couldn't believe this big academy would buy Eupen. In 2012 the club was already bankrupt. There was a problem getting its league licence. Then the Qataris arrived, paid all the salaries and debts. It was a positive effect on the whole region."

According to Gerkens the club was "one centimetre from official bankruptcy". Recalling the day in March 2012 when a delegation from the Qatari royal family arrived looking for a suitable club to buy, he says "Christmas, Easter and everything else came in one day from Qatar".

The Aspire Academy was launched to great fanfare in 2004. Diego Maradona and Pele were paid huge sums to attend the launch in Doha and shake hands on stage to bury the enmities of the past. Aspire, though, was all about the

### UNITED NATIONS

**In their first eight league games of this season, Eupen fielded players from nine different countries, six of which were African**

"There are no limitations on non-EU players and you can own a club," says Blicher of a country that has some of the most progressive citizenship laws in the EU. "And there's the language. A lot of our players from West Africa speak French."

Although the Qatari money brought some unrealistic expectations, the team was transformed overnight. The club's debt was wiped out and the side was suddenly filled with young African players. Last season they finished second in the league but lost a promotion play-off.

Senegalese defender Diawandou Diagne was signed by Barcelona in the summer, but when asked about the sell-on value of the players, Blicher explains: "People are always sceptical but we are not looking to make a profit. Our aim is not to win the Champions League but we want to be a permanent member of the Belgian first division.

"And some of the young kids will have the chance to go to the biggest football clubs and fulfil their dreams."

An issue that has dogged Aspire and Football Dreams is naturalisation. "We can say we have been running this project for almost eight years and screened 3.5million footballers; not one is playing for Qatar," says Blicher. "Also, study FIFA regulations. If you acquire new citizenship, you would have to live continuously in one place for five years after you are 18. What are we doing? The exact opposite."

Blicher points out that over 30 Football Dreams students have represented 10 different national teams, mostly in Africa from under-17 to senior level. "And they are still very young, with the oldest being 20," he says. "When the first players play at the African Nations Cup for Cameroon or Nigeria, or the 2018 World Cup in Russia for Mali or Ivory Coast, then people will see."

> "When I think of Qatar I think of PSG. Some supporters dreamed of PSG, that Qatar would buy a lot of stars. Instead they saw 15 teenage Africans arrive"
>
> Thomas Evers of the daily newspaper *Grenz-Echo*

future. It was a gleaming state-of-the-art academy that would give Qatari athletes the best possible chance of maximising their talents in a range of disciplines, from high jump to football.

Its most controversial project, however, is Football Dreams.

Aspire is clear that it is a humanitarian project that scours the developing world, taking talented players who would otherwise be overlooked among the crushing poverty of Africa, Asia and Central America. They claim to then educate the players before sending them out into the world, hopefully with a career in the game at the end of it all.

Critics have suggested that it is a cynical talent-farming exercise, with the ultimate goal of filling the Qatar national team with a roster of African-born ringers that could see the Emirate finally compete at a World Cup finals.

Others point to the uncanny correlation between the location of Football Dreams academies and the nationality of those on FIFA's executive committee who voted for Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup finals.

The Qataris have denied both charges, and Andres Blicher, a delegated board member at Eupen who also runs the flagship Football Dreams project, says: "This is a humanitarian football project. We screen thousands of players per year, give some scholarships, education at private schools, medical care.

"But what happens when these youngsters turn 18? Would we just leave them on their own?

"We thought that was not the right way. The most important thing is to bridge the gap between junior and senior football. We wanted to give these kids a chance to make it into pro football. This led us to the idea we should run a club."

There began an exhaustive search across Europe for a suitable team. But why did they settle on Belgium?

Few in Belgium believe Eupen will not be challenging for the second division title this term and claiming a place in next season's top flight. And after eight games, they were in third place, three points behind leaders Leuven.

After years of working for Eupen, balancing the books and seeing his beloved club come close to extinction, Jeff Gerkens can see no downside. Qatar's money has been welcomed with open arms.

"It is 100 per cent positive," he says with certainty. "I remember life before the Qataris. It was stress, stress, stress every minute because of a lack of money.

"Now I see everything is paid. Now everyone is without stress." WS

STEVE MENARY

# Overseas players not wanted

## Federation president causes a stir on live TV

Losing battle...Guyana (in yellow) take on St Kitts & Nevis in the Caribbean Cup qualifiers

Not so long ago, Guyana's footballers were national heroes. Now, quite literally, the Golden Jaguars are zeroes, having crashed out of the 2014 Caribbean Cup qualifiers without scoring a single goal. And this from a team who had eliminated 2006 World Cup finalists Trinidad & Tobago on their way to the semi-final stage of the CONCACAF's qualifying section for Brazil 2014.

Strengthened by an influx of overseas-based players, the Jaguars even managed to make it into the FIFA rankings top 100. Now they are no longer in the top 150 and most of those imported players are no longer welcome, with the Guyanese game perhaps at its lowest-ever ebb.

Before the Caribbean Cup qualifiers, Guyana had not played a senior game since November 2012. After coach Jamaal Shabazz left, no replacement was found until Denzil Thompson was appointed shortly before an inexperienced squad flew to St Kitts & Nevis last month.

Shabazz had drafted in overseas players such as the Cort brothers, Carl and Leon, who have both played in the English Premier League, and Guyanese-qualified players plying their trade professionally in the USA, including Chris Nurse and JP Rodrigues. But all these were excluded after Guyana Football Federation (GFF) president Christopher Matthias went on live television to defend the team's slide down the rankings.

"Advancement is not necessarily development," he said on NCN's weekly magazine show. Matthias claimed he was trying to stem federation debts estimated locally to be around £200,000 due to expenses from the World Cup campaign – such as staging an altitude-training camp in Colombia and flying in foreign-based players.

> "I don't think I should be punished because I was born and raised in another country"
> Guyana international JP Rodrigues

Matthias also claimed Faizal Khan, an agent licensed in England but of Guyanese extraction, had benefited from importing the overseas-based players. Khan vehemently denied it but was unable to go on television to respond due to a family illness in England. Instead, Shabazz defended his own legacy, fuming: "No football has been played. The name of this sport is football not administration."

Khan has challenged Matthias to prove his allegations and NCN has distanced itself from the claims.

Matthias' bar on overseas players ran directly against the Caribbean Football Union's attempts to attract more of them by scheduling qualifiers in the international break for the first time. Walter Moore, of Kazakhstan's Vostok, was called up but the rest were inexperienced locals. No players from champions Alpha United, who played in the recent CONCACAF Champions League, were selected.

The Golden Jaguars' only point in the qualifiers came in a 0-0 draw with Dominica, whose population is a 10th of Guyana's 735,000. Other games against St Lucia and St Kitts & Nevis were both lost 2-0. Rodrigues and Cort, both at Tampa Bay, and Fort Lauderdale's Nurse were all ignored. Rodrigues says: "I have immediate family still living in Guyana and my father was raised in Georgetown. I grew up in America but was raised under the Guyanese culture. I cannot live in Guyana and be a professional footballer. I make a living playing football full time."

Other former players, including Kayode McKinnon and Charles Pollard, have also voiced their frustration. After Matthias' NCN interview, Nurse sent the GFF president an emotional letter but received no reply. In the wake of Guyana's poor showing, Nurse posted the contents on Facebook. "I would love for you [Matthias] to stand in front of my father and my grandfather and tell them that I am not Guyanese enough to represent the national team," he wrote.

FIFA monitored a GFF meeting on August 9 when delegates bid to propose a motion of no confidence in Matthias. "We are analysing our observers' report" said a FIFA spokesman. "We can't speculate on potential future scenarios." WS

Alone...Moore was the only overseas player selected for the Caribbean Cup

TOM KUNDERT
in Lisbon

# End of the line for Bento

## National coach out after shock loss to Albania

**Floored...substitute Ivan Cavaleiro attempts to unlock Albania's defence with a diving header**

Just like his predecessor, Carlos Queiroz, Portugal coach Paulo Bento lost his job when a disappointing World Cup finals was followed by a disastrous start to a Euro qualifying campaign.

Defeat at home to Albania in the first post-Brazil match proved the final straw, with the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) dispensing with Bento's services and bringing in former Greece boss Fernando Santos, who has managed Benfica, Porto and Sporting Lisbon.

Given the ferocity of the criticism directed at Bento in his final weeks, it is easy to forget that two years previously he was being lavished with praise.

He had taken over with the national team in crisis. A spate of sudden international retirements were rumoured to have been triggered by a tense atmosphere in the squad between several players, while Queiroz was serving a suspension imposed by his own employers in the wake of alleged inappropriate language used during pre-World Cup doping tests. The chaotic situation was mirrored on the pitch, with an embarrassing 4-4 draw at home to Cyprus followed by a 1-0 defeat in Norway, after which Queiroz was axed.

Desperate to salvage Portugal's chances of qualifying for Euro 2012, the FPF attempted to hire Jose Mourinho on a temporary basis but they were refused permission by Real Madrid. "I have no problem being second choice behind the best coach in the world," was Bento's intelligent response to a tricky question in his first press conference after being appointed instead, and it set the tone for a period in which he could do no wrong.

A former team-mate of Cristiano Ronaldo's at Sporting, Bento did what no other national coach had hitherto managed by getting the best out of the player in a Portugal shirt. The team clinched their place at Euro 2012 with a memorable 6-2 demolition of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the play-off second leg in Lisbon, and Portugal and Ronaldo's brilliant form continued in Ukraine and Poland, where an exhilarating run ended with a penalty shoot-out defeat by eventual winners Spain in the semi-finals.

Unfortunately, instead of acting as a platform to build upon, that proved to be the high point of the Bento era. The coach had selected an identical starting XI in all five Euro 2012 games (bar one enforced change in the semi-final due to injury), but while continuity was beneficial in a short tournament, his big mistake was taking loyalty to a fault.

Bit by bit, voices of disapproval multiplied as the coach's obstinate refusal to change tactics or personnel – even when players were out of form or less than fully fit – led to a series of mediocre displays during World Cup qualifying.

Portugal scraped a place in Brazil thanks to a wondrous Ronaldo performance in Sweden, but Bento was still backed by many going into the 2014 finals. But that support evaporated as his reticence to bring about change came to the fore more starkly than ever, exemplified by his incomprehensible refusal to make William Carvalho a starter despite the Sporting midfielder's magnificent debut season, preferring to stick with the out-of-form Miguel Veloso and the ageing Raul Meireles.

Portugal crashed out of Brazil before the knockout rounds but Bento stayed on, and a spate of new faces in his first Euro 2016 qualifying squad suggested the long overdue "renewal" process would begin in earnest. Yet against Albania, Andre Gomes was the only player not involved in the Brazil debacle selected in the starting line-up, while veterans Joao Pereira, unused by Valencia, and Ricardo Costa, now playing in the Middle East, retained their spots. The insipid performance and a 1-0 defeat in Aveiro meant there was no way back for Bento.

> "Maybe we are an average team. It would be a lie to say that we are a top team. We have a very limited team and we are not at the best level"
>
> Cristiano Ronaldo's assessment of Portugal during the World Cup

With Fabio Coentrao, Pepe, Joao Moutinho and Ronaldo still at the height of their careers, the *Seleccao* has a solid basis to do far better. But reversing Portugal's slide depends on Santos excelling in two areas where Bento ultimately failed. He must endow the team with greater tactical flexibility and, above all, infuse fresh energy through the successful integration of a new generation of talented youngsters. WS

**Going...Bento sees Portugal lose in what was to be his last game in charge**

AMOY GHOSHAL
in Kolkata

# Stars out of retirement for new league

## ISL could revolutionise the game in India

India are undoubtedly minnows in world football, but there is a huge buzz in the world's second-most populated country as a new cash-rich league kicks off on October 12.

Known as the Indian Super League (ISL), it will have a franchise system with teams from eight different cities and no promotion or relegation. It will run for only three months, but each team will have a marquee foreigner, with the likes of Alessandro Del Piero, David Trezeguet, Robert Pires and Freddie Ljungberg confirmed as participants. Zico, Ricki Herbert and Peter Reid will be among the high-profile coaches.

Inevitably, there have been comparisons with Japan, where the J.League played a huge part in the transformation of the game there. The hope is that the ISL's marquee signings will help to improve the image of Indian football both on and off the pitch.

But the big difference in India is that there is already a domestic league, the I-League, which will continue to exist alongside the ISL, with its new season now being delayed until December.

Football is the second most-watched sport in India, behind cricket, but very few fans follow the I-League. The sport is not a financially viable career option for youngsters and there has been a dearth of Indian stars to act as role models.

In a bid to encourage the next generation to take up the sport as a profession, IMG Reliance, the commercial and marketing partners of the Indian football federation, came up with the idea of a new league along the lines of the highly successful cricket IPL.

The ISL is a joint venture between IMG Reliance and Star India, one of the country's biggest broadcasters. With Star India owning 35 per cent of the new league, they are well placed to revolutionise football viewing in India.

The league's live telecasts are expected to be relayed on the multiple channels and platforms of Star's enormous network, as well as in various different regional languages, thus taking the league to the masses. Automobile company Hero MotoCorp has been roped in as the title sponsors for three years.

Each franchise has a base price of 120 crore INR (1.2billion rupees, or £12million) for a 10-year ownership contract. The owners and co-owners of the franchises include top corporates, businessmen, Bollywood celebrities and even cricket legends Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly.

> "I can't say the ISL will change Indian football overnight but it won't damage it"
> Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia

It will be a huge contrast from the I-League, where the quality of telecast is poor and the product not attractive enough to bring in sponsors, corporates or celebrities. The prize money (15 crore INR, £1.5m) of the ISL will also be 11 times more than what is given out in the I-League.

Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia has given the new league his support, saying: "At the moment, I can't say that ISL will change Indian football overnight and we are going to qualify for the World Cup, but it definitely is not going to damage Indian football.

"Right now, we are ranked somewhere in the 150s in the world, so I don't think we can go worse than this. It can only get better with the ISL coming in."

IMG Reliance have played a big role in getting high-profile foreigners on board, but barring Pires and Ljungberg, the other marquee foreigners like Del Piero and Trezeguet have been signed directly by the franchises.

With a wage of around $750,000 for three months on offer, as well as the chance to be a promotional ambassador in a market as vast as India, it was not too difficult to convince the former stars to join the ISL bandwagon.

Proof of the league's global influence is the fact that La Liga champions Atletico Madrid are co-owners of the Kolkata franchise, while several other European clubs are tied up with other franchises – Feyenoord (Delhi), Fiorentina (Pune) and Internazionale (Chennai).

Besides the direct signings by the franchises, 84 domestic players and 49 foreigners were selected through a draft system. Many of those foreigners – who include Bernard Mendy, Michael Chopra and Josemi – have a lower profile but have still played at the highest level at some point of their career.

Each team will have at least 14 Indian

### INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE 2014

| TEAM | MARQUEE PLAYER | COACH |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Atletico de Kolkata | Luis Garcia | Antonio Lopez Habas |
| 2 Chennaiyin | Elano | Marco Materazzi |
| 3 Delhi Dynamos | Alessandro Del Piero | Harm Van Veldhoven |
| 4 Goa | Robert Pires | Zico |
| 5 Kerala Blasters | David James | David James |
| 6 Mumbai City | Freddie Ljungberg | Peter Reid |
| 7 NorthEast United | Joan Capdevila | Ricki Herbert |
| 8 Pune City | David Trezeguet | Franco Colomba |

In the picture...former Internazionale and Italy defender Marco Materazzi (centre) is greeted by fans in Bangalore, where he is to become player-manager of the ISL's Chennaiyin team

Marquee signing...Del Piero with his Delhi Dynamos shirt

players in their squad but only five are likely to start as six foreigners will be allowed in the starting XI. The eight teams will play each other home and away in the league stage, with the top four reaching the play-offs, which will be two-legged semi-finals followed by a Final at a neutral venue.

Despite the buzz, it is worth remembering that the new league has had its roadblocks. Initially the problem was the unavailability of the top Indian players as I-League clubs were unwilling to cooperate. But that resistance did not last long as four clubs decided to loan their players while two clubs became co-owners of two franchises.

The league was also criticised for twice postponing its launch, while many argue that the changes could have been brought within the existing I-League.

Australian coach Arthur Papas, who is in charge of Dempo in the I-League and will also be Zico's assistant with the Goa franchise in the ISL, says: "How it affects the I-League will be interesting to witness as I can't fathom how in the long-term two domestic leagues can be run successfully within a calendar year. So only time will tell whether the effects are advantageous or not."

IMG Reliance and Star India have also invested around 50 crore INR (£5m) in infrastructure, refurbishing the eight venues, while each franchise has to spend 2 crore INR (£200,000) on grassroots development each year in a bid to meet the league's target of reaching out to one million youngsters in the first year.

The ISL franchises also have a commitment to give fans at the stadium a lively matchday experience – something which has been missing in Indian domestic football. They are counting on the marquee foreigners to both bring more people to the stadiums and attract sponsors.

The whole eco-system in Indian football is set to receive a massive boost so the ISL promises to give new life to Indian football.

It will be interesting to see if that becomes a reality. WS

JOHN DUERDEN

# Time to toughen up, says Aguirre

## New coach wants an edgier Japan ahead of January's Asian Cup

Striking difference... Aguirre gives instructions to Muto

> "We'll fight hard, wherever we're playing. Our plan is to play good football and, of course, to win"
> Japan coach Javier Aguirre

With the Asian Cup due to kick off in January, time is of the essence when it comes to getting a settled team in place. But of the four Asian participants who were at the World Cup – and therefore expected to do well in Australia next year – two have changed their coach, while another almost did before a change of heart.

Javier Aguirre has replaced Alberto Zaccheroni as coach of Asian champions Japan and the Mexican is already shaking things up. After only a couple of weeks he declared watching J.League games was like watching testimonials. He sees his job as eradicating some of this "niceness" which, it could be argued, contributed to the national side collecting just a single point in Brazil.

"It's just different to what I'm used to in Mexico or Spain, where they play every minute like it's life or death," said Aguirre.

"I'm talking about...knowing how to 'manage the result'. I don't mean cheating or kicking people, but just making sure your opponents know you're really in the game."

There are other habits that also need to be changed – as were demonstrated in Aguirre's first two games in charge: a 2-0 defeat by Uruguay and a 2-2 draw with Venezuela.

Three of the four goals that Japan conceded came as a result of unnecessary defensive errors, with Eiji Kawashima's chances of keeping the goalkeeper's jersey looking about as solid as his handling. At the other end, there was plenty of possession but little cutting edge, though against Venezuela the directness of new boy Yoshinori Muto of Tokyo made a welcome difference.

In contrast to the mercurial Aguirre, former West Germany and Real Madrid sweeper Uli Stielike is a cool tactician – and now in charge of South Korea after Bert Van Marwijk turned down the job.

Although Stielike enjoyed a stellar playing career, his time as a coach – including spells with Switzerland and Ivory Coast, plus various club sides in Europe and the Middle East – makes for less exciting reading.

Taking over from seemingly long-term option Hong Myung-bo, who resigned in July, Stielike has basically four friendlies from October to the end of the year to get to know the players and work out his best team ahead of the Asian Cup.

In September, caretaker Shin Tae-yong – who led Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma to victory in the 2010 AFC Champions League – was in temporary charge for a 3-1 victory over Venezuela and a slightly unlucky 1-0 defeat at the hands of Uruguay. Stielike has promised results over style and, after what happened in June, fans are more than ready for some hard-headed pragmatism.

And then there is Carlos Queiroz and the drawn-out drama of whether he would agree a new contract with Iran.

The 61-year-old Portuguese has now signed a four-year deal to remain as coach, but in spite of his side's decent showing at the World Cup, he is under pressure to deliver. While fans tolerated a defensive and counter-attacking Iran in Brazil, they may not be so understanding in Australia unless he can deliver a first continental triumph since 1976. And Queiroz himself has ramped up expectations by saying: "We are going there to win a medal."

As for the hosts, Ange Postecoglou remains in the hot seat and will have been extremely grateful for a 3-2 defeat of Saudi Arabia in London – the Socceroos first win for almost 10 months.

Although they may be in transition, Australia are still overly reliant on Tim Cahill in attack, while remaining suspect at the back, and they need to show they are approaching the requisite levels of readiness for January's tournament. WS

### PAST ASIAN CUP WINNERS

OSASU OBAYIUWANA
in Lagos

# Problems soar for Super Eagles

## The African champions are at risk of not defending their title in Morocco

**Beaten...Nigeria's Ramon Azeez (in green) loses out to Thievy of Congo**

Nineteen months after winning their third African Nations Cup title, Nigerian football seems to be in free fall, with the national team in danger of missing out on January's finals in Morocco.

Finding themselves without a coach at the start of the continental qualifying campaign, Stephen Keshi – whose contract was not renewed after the World Cup in Brazil – agreed to take charge temporarily for the two games in September. But the campaign suffered a faltering start, with a shock defeat at home to Congo and a draw away to South Africa leaving them in third place early on in Group A – and all against the backdrop of a bitter leadership crisis within the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF).

So far, those disputes within the governing body have led to a FIFA intervention, an international suspension and the enforced return – three times – of federation president Aminu Maigari.

A power struggle for control of the NFF has been rumbling since the summer, when Nigeria reached the knockout stage of the World Cup for only the third time, having also done so in 1994 and 1998.

Three days after the 2-0 loss to France which sent Nigeria home, the NFF was dissolved and replaced by a sole administrator – a move that the government claimed was essential while officials were hauled before a court.

Under FIFA statutes, national football associations must not be subject to government control. Nigeria were therefore banned from global football in July for what FIFA described as "government interference" in the running of the football federation.

The ban was lifted nine days later after a court case against the NFF was quashed and Maigari reinstated. But he was then voted out of office by the federation's executive committee a few days later. When FIFA then refused to accept this decision, Maigari was once again returned as president.

On top of all this, the NFF headquarters in Abuja were gutted by fire in August in an incident that is still being investigated by the police.

> "I'm only 25; I have never known Nigeria to lose a game at home" International striker Sone Aluko on the defeat by Congo

The leadership problems deepened on the day that the NFF and its elective congress were expected to decide a new date for elections, as Maigari and another senior official were arrested by Nigeria's secret police. They were questioned but released 24 hours later.

While the official meeting was put on hold, a rival gathering saw Chris Giwa controversially elected NFF president by a group of members who were backed by the country's ministry of sport.

Once again FIFA was forced to intervene, insisting it did not recognise Giwa and his board, and that Maigari must once again be reinstated.

The confusion led to a boycott of domestic leagues by referees, clubs and players in protest at the seemingly never-ending crisis. A FIFA deadline of September 1 for Maigari and his staff to be allowed back to their posts passed without Giwa relinquishing power, prompting the world ruling body to threaten a global ban.

With an international suspension hovering, Nigeria lost 3-2 to Congo in their opening qualifier – their first competitive loss at home for 33 years. Although they lost the 2000 African Nations Cup Final to Cameroon in Lagos, that was on penalties.

Three days after the Congo game, the threat of suspension was lifted when Maigari was granted permission to continue as NFF president and handed a mandate to plan for elections. FIFA has warned, however, that any further complications will lead to an automatic ban until March 2015.

Grateful that they had not had to forfeit their next qualifier, away to South Africa, Nigeria managed a 0-0 draw in Cape Town.

Although the NFF has said there will be no talks over a new national coach until a new board is in place, an upbeat general-secretary Musa Amadu told *World Soccer*: "The dark days are over and Nigeria football will have a problem-free setting come October."

That remains to be seen. Even though NFF has promised a range of reforms designed to improve its governance and keep its sole funders – the government – away, many will argue that old habits die hard. WS

BRYAN KAY

# Wanchope fills the World Cup vacuum

## Former assistant takes charge following rift with departing Pinto

Paulo Wanchope was no stranger to controversy during his playing days. Once he reportedly refused to be named as a substitute for West Ham United, only to later emerge from the bench and score twice. And if the perplexing aftermath of Costa Rica's sensational World Cup is any kind of barometer, his recent entry into top-level management looks just as enigmatic.

The former West Ham United, Derby County and Manchester City striker took charge of *Los Ticos* following the departure of Jorge Luis Pinto shortly after Costa Rica's greatest World Cup showing.

The parting was shambolic; a soap opera of traded barbs in which the thus-far heroic Pinto accused his assistant Wanchope, who scored 45 goals in 73 games for his country, of trying to get him fired. The episode divided the nation. Fans erupted in fury, with some of them turning on Wanchope. For his part, Wanchope told local media that Colombia-native Pinto lacked respect and that there had been ongoing problems behind the scenes. He promptly took over as interim coach, just in time for September's Centroamericana Cup, the regional competition between Central America's seven nations, which was making a special appearance in the United States in honour of governing body UNCAF's 25th anniversary.

**High flyer...Costa Rica's David Ramirez (right) gets the jump on Wilson Lalin of Guatemala in the Final**

It was a sad end to a fairy-tale adventure for a small, peace-loving country of 4.5 million people. It also begged the question of how the team had managed such an almighty effort in reaching the World Cup quarter-finals amid such enmity. The claims of Pinto and Wanchope both referred to a period that pre-dated the team's arrival in Brazil. Indeed, Pinto was quoted as saying he had been "sleeping with the enemy for one-and-a-half years".

On the field there was little hint of the problems during their run to a penalty shoot-out loss to Holland. On the sidelines, however, it looked to some a different story. Observers noted none of the backroom staff – including Wanchope and Luis Gabelo Conejo, Costa Rica's goalkeeper during the 1990 World Cup in Italy – embraced Pinto as the team took the world by storm.

But it was back in Costa Rica, as July ticked into August, that the sparks started to fly. Pinto and the Costa Rican FA announced they had failed to agree a new contract, so Pinto was off. Then claim followed counterclaim. Pinto said his disciplinarian style was underappreciated; Wanchope retorted that Pinto lacked grace. Meanwhile, word emerged that goalkeeper Keylor Navas, whose World Cup performances earned him a move to Real Madrid, and Fulham forward Bryan Ruiz had borne gripes with Pinto.

> "We took a very big step in Brazil. We proved that we've got a lot of talent in our game" National coach Paulo Wanchope

Not exactly ideal preparation for the regional title tilt.

That *Los Ticos* eventually rose to the task, winning their eighth title, doesn't tell half the story. The pressure was on Wanchope from the outset. Ostensibly, he had been placed in temporary charge, but the nagging feeling that the low-grade nature of the tournament was some kind of audition couldn't be shrugged off entirely.

That pressure eased after the opening group match. Playing against lowly Nicaragua – a country where baseball reigns supreme – they turned in a comfortable 3-0 win. But then came Panama. For much of the game, the

### CENTROAMERICANA CUP WINNERS

***Ticos* on top...Costa Rica celebrate after their 2-1 win over Guatemala**

Costa Ricans were outmuscled and outplayed. It took two late goals to secure a 2-2 draw, and they had to sweat out the result of Panama's match with Nicaragua before securing a berth in the Final on goal difference.

There Costa Rica faced an unfancied but confident Guatemala, who had won all three of their group games. In a lacklustre display, Wanchope's side scraped a 2-1 win, after initially falling behind to a penalty, to earn a place in next year's CONCACAF Gold Cup as well as the special centennial edition of the Copa America in 2016, both of which will be staged in the United States. El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama also qualified for the Gold Cup.

Elsewhere, Belize could not scale the heights of last year's Centroamericana Cup, when they finished fourth and earned a first Gold Cup appearance. This time they finished last, but perhaps the biggest disappointment were Honduras. The only other Central American country to reach Brazil, they face a play-off with the fifth-placed country in the 2014 Caribbean Cup for a Gold Cup place.

As for Wanchope, he most likely will step aside to a support role for a new coach. But there was at least one moment of contrition as the tournament progressed, with Wanchope taking time to laud Pinto's tactical nous. For Pinto, another job in the international game has been touted. What chance a clash one day with his former charges? **WS**

**Divided...*Ticos* then-coach Pinto (left) and assistant Wanchope were at odds during the World Cup**

**Winning start...Wanchope receives the Centroamericana Cup in his first tournament as Costa Rica coach**

# ARJEN ROBBEN

He may be seriously one-footed but the Dutchman has been crowned champion in four countries. By Nick Bidwell

"He's very talented but sadly only uses his left foot," noted Johan Cruyff, when asked for his expert opinion on a rookie winger at Groningen. "He will never get to the top if he doesn't learn to utilise his right, too."

So much for the advice of Holland's greatest-ever talent.

Almost 15 years later, Arjen Robben, a native of the Groningen satellite town of Bedum is not only a fully fledged star of the world game, a headliner for Bayern Munich and Holland, but he remains as singularly one-footed as ever.

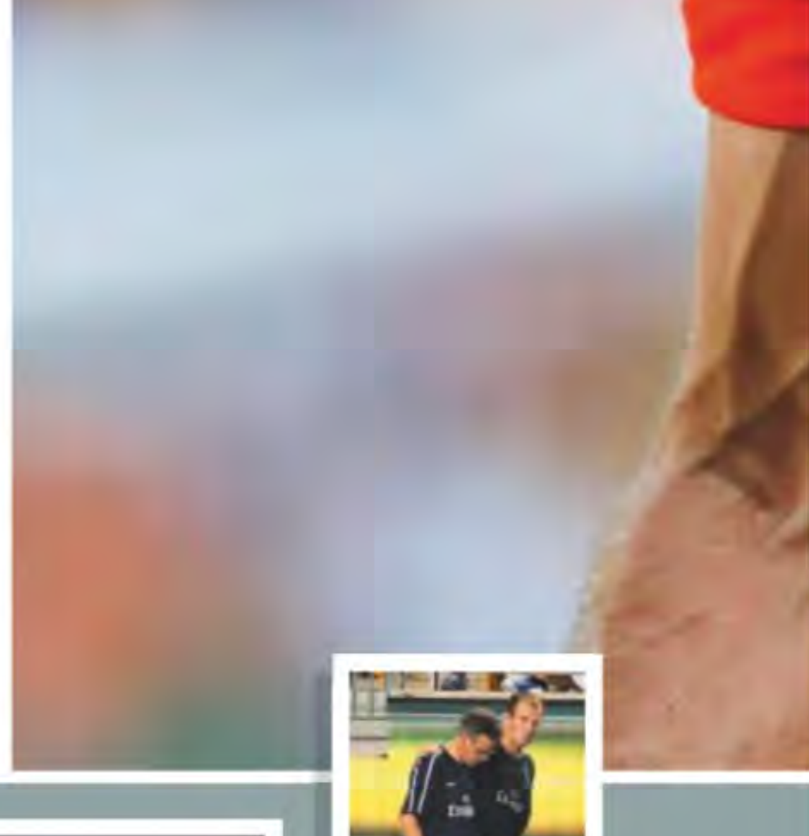
Cruyff, and the vast majority of coaches, would argue that having one limb "made of chocolate" represents a huge handicap for a professional. Players who seek to spare their weaker foot by twisting and contorting their bodies into all manner of unusual positions are at a distinct disadvantage.

Not that life as a footballing uniped has done Robben any harm. The subject of three big-money transfers, he has won domestic championships with PSV, Chelsea, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich. In addition, he scored the winner in Bayern's Champions League Final victory over Borussia Dortmund in 2013, netted some 160 competitive goals at club level, won 82 caps for Holland and claimed World Cup silver and bronze.

With his explosive speed, vivacity, extraordinarily dexterous left foot, ability to dribble in tight spots and limitless self-confidence, Robben can change the course of a match in a blink of an eye. And that, of course, makes him a special commodity indeed.

It is often claimed that Robben is one-dimensional and predictable, more often than not cutting inside from the right flank and working an opening for a left-footed shot. Every defender on the planet knows the score, and yet time and time again he manages to dodge the searchlights.

Of all the sides faced with the ▸



LIFE & TIMES

**APR 30, 2003**

Makes his international debut in 1-1 draw against Portugal in Amsterdam.

**MAY 29, 2003**

Celebrates with PSV team-mates after winning the Eredivisie title following a goalless draw at his first club Groningen.

**JUN 26, 2004**

Scores the winning penalty in the shoot-out against Sweden in Euro 2004 quarter-finals in Faro, Portugal.

**JUL 29, 2004**

After joining Chelsea, he is injured in a pre-season game against Roma and misses the start of the league season.

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Emotional...Robben roars in delight as Holland beat Mexico to reach this summer's World Cup quarter-finals

**MAY 22, 2005**

On a bus parade around south-west London after Chelsea's first title for 50 years.

**APR 29, 2006**

Back-to-back titles are celebrated following a home win against Manchester United.

**JUN 11, 2006**

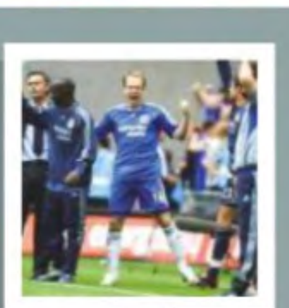
Celebrates his first goal in a World Cup finals as Holland beat Serbia-Montenegro 1-0.

**FEB 25, 2007**

With the League Cup after Chelsea beat Arsenal 2-1 in the Final in Cardiff.

**MAY 1, 2007**

Misses in the penalty shoot-out as Chelsea crash out of the Champions League to Liverpool at the semi-final stage for the second time in three years.



**MAY 19, 2007**

Wins the FA Cup in his last game for Chelsea as they beat Manchester United 1-0 at Wembley.

**AUG 23, 2007**

Joins Real Madrid from Chelsea for €35m.

## FACT FILE

**Arjen Robben**

**Nationality**
Dutch

**Age**
30 (23.01.84)

**Place of birth**
Bedum, Holland

**Height**
5ft 11in (1.80m)

**Position**
Winger

**Teams**
Groningen
(2000-02) 34 games (10 goals)
PSV
(2002-04) 75 games (22 goals)
Chelsea
(2004-07) 105 games (19 goals)
Real Madrid
(2007-09) 95 games (13 goals)
Bayern Munich
(2009-present) 169 games (90 goals)*
Holland
(2003-present) 82 games (26 goals)*

**Honours**
PSV
Eredivisie
2003
Chelsea
Premier League
2005, 2006
FA Cup
2007
League Cup
2007
Real Madrid
La Liga
2008
Spanish Super Cup
2008
Bayern Munich
Champions League
2013
UEFA Super Cup
2013
Bundesliga
2010, 2013, 2014
German Cup
2010, 2013, 2014
German Super Cup
2010, 2012

*(* up to and inc 23.09.14)*

onerous task of shutting him down, none has done a better job in recent times than Borussia Dortmund. The Ruhr club's plans to aggressively double-team the Dutchman and further restrict him by shuffling a defensive midfielder across were instrumental in five consecutive victories over Bayern in 2010-11 and 2011-12, but such days have proved few and far between.

One of Robben's strongest points is his persistence. Even when his signature lateral moves are thwarted, he sticks with it, convinced that he will shimmy and jink his way to a shooting opportunity sooner or later. Happy to engage in a war of attrition, he wears a defence down.

"It's not a surprise anymore; everyone knows what I'm doing," Robben told the *New York Times* last year. "But, you know, it still works."

And why not. Rather than being hemmed in by the touchline, he has much more room inside to weave his magic, and with the left-back marking him now forced onto his weaker foot, a clear mismatch is created – one Robben is only too happy to exploit.

**Real winner...tricking Levante's Manuel Gaspar**

> "In one-on-one situations, he is one of the best in the world"
> Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho

"In one-on-one situations, he is one of the best in the world," Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, who was his boss at Stamford Bridge from 2004 to 2007, once declared. "He's unbelievable, grandiose, fantastic."

**Promise...a star in the making at Groningen**

Robben may be at the peak of his powers these days, but the 30-year-old has not always been a "leftie on the wrong flank". While in the Groningen schoolboy and youth ranks he was a goal-hungry number 10 who made his professional debut as a striker before establishing himself on the left wing and moving to Eindhoven.

Good enough to make his Eredivisie bow at the tender age of 16 and be elected Groningen's player of the year in his first senior season, Robben was no walkabout wide-man in his early days.

For both Groningen and PSV he mainly hugged the left touchline and, seemingly given the ball 100 times in every game, a turn of pace would see him race past the full-back to either set up an assist – many of them benefiting PSV's Serb striker Mateja Kezman – or result in a goal attempt for himself.

An €18million move to Chelsea in the summer of 2004 brought about more changes in his play. Although nominally deployed on the left wing, he would frequently swop flanks with wide partner-in-crime Damian Duff, and early in the 2005-06 season he enjoyed a watershed international moment in a friendly against Germany in Rotterdam.

Used on the right that night by national coach Marco Van Basten, his performance against the *Nationalmannschaft* was one of pure thunder and lightning. He scored both goals in his side's 2-2 draw and constantly tormented the Germans with his pace, movement and tricks – which included nutmegs, shuffles and slaloms.

"When Robben plays like this, he's unplayable," sighed German midfielder, Dietmar Hamann. Opposition centre-back Per Mertesacker added: "Playing Robben on the right was a clever chess move. He always went inside and headed for goal."

Strange that it would take a further three years for Robben to definitively

**SEP 18, 2007**
Makes his debut for Real at home to Werder Bremen in the Champions League.

**FEB 10, 2008**
Scores his first goal in La Liga, at home to Valladolid.

**MAY 18, 2008**
Celebrates winning the Spanish title, with Dutch team-mates Ruud Van Nistelrooy and Wesley Sneijder.

**JUN 13, 2008**
Scores for Holland as they thrash France 4-1 at Euro 2008.

settle into the role of roving right winger, and all the credit here must go to ex-Real Madrid boss Juande Ramos, who shortly after arriving at the Bernabeu in December 2008 instructed Robben, then in his second and final season in Spain, to switch flanks.

Because of his repeated injury problems and penchant to hold onto the ball come what may, Robben was never especially popular with Spanish pundits. But even they would have to admit that the change of brief was a success; that a skilful and elusive Dutchman let loose in the interior could cause untold damage.

A veteran of a half-dozen European Championships and World Cup finals, Robben is still evolving in national-team orange. In Brazil he was mainly used through the middle by coach Louis Van Gaal, who left him free to roam where the mood took him. Divested of tracking-back duties, he turned out to be one of the players of the tournament, scoring three times as Holland took third place.

The problem with Robben, though, is the diva within. The inflated ego. The bad attitude. The whining, the pouting and the white-flag body language. The soloist obsession. The diving for crooked advantage, a penchant for the vaudevillian which had Premier League opponents and fans up in arms.

Coaches in charge of Robben have a straightforward risk-versus-reward calculation to make. What is the most important: match-winning genius with a good chance of headstrong behaviour, or a tight ship with everyone pulling in the same direction? Decisions, decisions...

This was very much the dilemma facing Ramos when he stood in the Real Madrid technical area.

"Robben is a magnificent player, one of the most dangerous in the squad, but he does have a very individual style," said Ramos. "The team plays differently when he is in the side. Without him, we are more collective. Curiously, we perform better in his absence."

**Contentious...Robben has often been accused of diving**

Everywhere he has gone, Robben has administered both blessing and curse. For all his electrifying thrusts out wide, those of a Chelsea persuasion quickly grew tired of his repeated spells on the sidelines through injury, and since being shown the door by Real in 2009 and pitching up at Bayern, the same tale of the divine and the divisive has unfolded.

Whereas the UK footballing fraternity regard his type of simulation as the most heinous of crimes, in the German game their big bugbear is players who put their own interests above those of the team – and in the Dutchman, they had a perfect example of the species.

When jeered by fans in Munich while appearing for Holland in a friendly against Bayern at the end of the 2011-12 season, it was assumed by some that it was

**AUG 29, 2010**

Scores twice on his debut for Bayern Munich, against Wolfsburg, a day after signing for the German club.

**MAY 8, 2010**

With coach Louis Van Gaal (centre) after securing the Bundesliga title in his first season at Bayern.

**MAY 22, 2010**

Defeat in the Champions League Final as Bayern lose 2-0 to Internazionale in Madrid.

**JUL 11, 2010**

More misery as he misses several chances in the World Cup Final defeat to Spain.

> "He sometimes plays for himself. He's an egotist. But that's what makes him so good"
> Jan Van Dijk, who coached Robben at Groningen

Champion dad...with children Luka, Kai and Lynn after Bayern's Bundesliga title win last season

Expectations...opponents may read his intentions but stopping him is a different ball game

payback for the two vital penalties he missed for the Bavarians that spring – against Chelsea in the 2012 Champions League Final loss and away to Dortmund in a key Bundesliga fixture. But what the Allianz Arena faithful were really protesting about were his repeated acts of selfishness and disrespect to team-mates – the heated arguments with colleagues over who should take a set-piece; the day in 2011 he almost choked Thomas Muller for daring to admonish him for wasting a free-kick against Werder Bremen; the dressing-room altercation with Franck Ribery; and the countless occasions he would needlessly give away possession or refuse to pass to someone better placed.

"Arjen always has been the same," says Jan Van Dijk, the coach who gave him his first big break at Groningen. "He played like that as a youngster. He sometimes plays for himself. He is an egotist. But that's what makes him so good."

Van Dijk makes a good point. Driven, single-minded and not at all interested in the opinions of others, Robben goes his own way. So keen was the teenager to make it that he religiously devoured the manuals of famous Dutch coaching visionary, Wiel Coerver, and while at Groningen he regularly stayed behind after training to work on various aspects of his craft.

"My character has taken me a long way," says Robben. "I've always wanted to be the best, the cleverest, the quickest. It's a good thing to demand a lot of yourself."

In a career marked by a succession of peaks, troughs and virulent criticism the inside-out winger has had to show an awful lot of resilience to come out the other side and today is maturing very nicely. After many, many injury-prone years – broken metatarsal bones, knee, calf, groin and ankle complaints, plus assorted muscular problems – Bayern doctor Hans-Wilhelm Muller-Wohlfahrt and miracle worker osteopath Hub Westhoven have him in the best physical shape of his life. Thanks to Bayern coaches Jupp Heynckes and Pep Guardiola, he now works harder off the ball and seems far more at peace with himself, more relaxed and even ready for a spot of leadership.

Once categorised as a big-occasion loser, too emotional and fragile for his own good, the "man of crystal" is proving to be made of much sterner stuff. **WS**

**Dream finish... evading Borussia Dortmund's Mats Hummels to score Bayern Munich's winner in the 2013 Champions League Final at Wembley**

**MAY 19, 2012**
Misses an extra-time penalty against old club Chelsea as Bayern lose a shoot-out on their home ground in the Champions League Final.

**MAY 25, 2013**
Third time lucky. Champions League glory at Wembley as he scores the winner in a 2-1 Final victory over Bundesliga rivals Borussia Dortmund.

**MAY 17, 2014**
Celebrates with the German Cup after scoring in the Final against Borussia Dortmund to secure another double for Bayern.

**JULY 9, 2014**
More shoot-out agony as Holland go out of the World Cup to Argentina in the semi-finals.

# Arjen ROBBEN

## CAREER IN NUMBERS

### WINS

WON LEAGUE TITLES IN 4 COUNTRIES

England | Holland | Germany | Spain

2005 AND 2006

2003

2010, 2013 AND 2014

2008

### HOLLAND

**82** CAPS

**26** GOALS

### PLAYED IN...

**3** EURO FINALS 2004, 2008 & 2012

**3** WORLD CUPS 2006, 2010 & 2014

**3** CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINALS 2010, 2012 & 2013

**1** WORLD CUP FINAL 2010

### MPH

**23**

SPEED HE WAS RECORDED RUNNING AT IN THE 2014 WORLD CUP – MAKING HIM THE FASTEST AT THE TOURNAMENT

### TRANSFER FEES

### ESM TEAM OF THE YEAR

**TWICE**
Robben has made the ESM team of the year twice: in 2005 and 2010.
He also made the FIFA World Cup All-Star Team this summer.

### HONOURS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eredivisie | 2003 | | |
| Premier League | 2005 | 2006 | |
| FA Cup | 2007 | | |
| League Cup | 2007 | | |
| La Liga | 2008 | | |
| Spanish Super Cup | 2008 | | |
| Bundesliga | 2010 | 2013 | 2014 |
| German Cup | 2010 | 2013 | 2014 |
| German Super Cup | 2010 | 2012 | |
| Champions League | 2013 | | |
| Uefa Super Cup | 2013 | | |

# Three's a crowd

English clubs have struggled with 3-5-2 this season, but that does not make the system redundant, says Jonathan Wilson

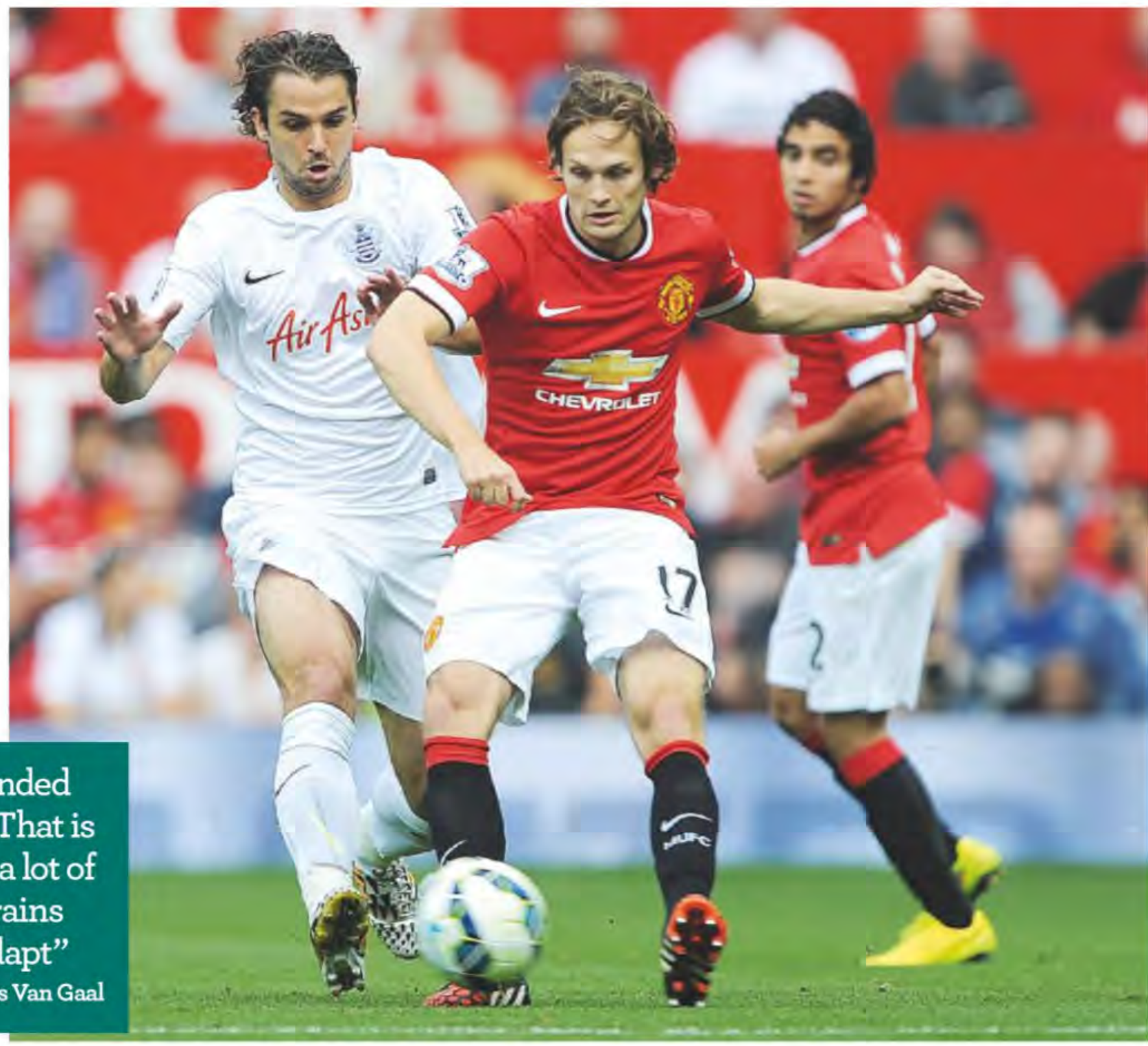
As soon as Louis Van Gaal moved away from a back three, he won his first game as Manchester United manager – though it helped that they were playing a supine Queens Park Rangers, who had switched away from three at the back to win their first game of the season, against Sunderland, in their previous fixture.

The reaction in some parts to Van Gaal's switch was one of sneeriness: goodbye 3-5-2, you were only ever a strange foreign import whose best days were behind it. But that's nonsense.

Van Gaal has said that he hadn't had sufficient fit defenders to play with three centre-backs against QPR and, while the midfield diamond he ended up employing may become the default, it would be no great surprise to see the back three return at some point. For him, philosophy is far more important than shape. But history has shown that it tends to take his sides a little time to learn how to play his way, whatever formation they adopt.

It may be that English defenders, brought up in a culture in which four at the back predominates, are resistant to a back three, through unfamiliarity as much as anything else.

> "My teams have always tended to start the season slowly. That is because I give my players a lot of information. I load their brains a lot and it takes time to adapt"
> **Manchester United manager Louis Van Gaal**




**Diamond... Blind played the holding role to good effect in Manchester United's win over Queens Park Rangers**

Perhaps Van Gaal underestimated the cultural conservatism of English football, but that still doesn't explain why he seemed so set from the start on playing a formation he had himself never employed until adopting it with Holland six months ago. Although both his Ajax and Barcelona sides played at times with a 4-3-3/3-4-3 hybrid, that was created by one central defender stepping out into midfield, leaving a centre-back and two full-backs, rather than three central defenders. It was an injury to his key midfielder Kevin Strootman, allied to fears about his defenders' capabilities in one-on-one situations, that led to a radical rethink that seemed intended as a short-term measure for the World Cup.

It worked well for him in Brazil as Holland reached the semi-finals. But still, after a quarter of a century playing one way, why switch?

It was Harry Redknapp, perhaps, who offered the best answer, when explaining his switch to 3-5-2 with QPR. Loic Remy, he said, was a forward who needed a partner, so he had to play in a front two. But Redknapp didn't want to lose a midfielder as he felt he still needed three central players to avoid being overmanned. The best way to play two strikers and three in central midfield, he argued, was to use wing-backs and three centre-backs. That logic has made three at the back such a feature of Italian football, where a general dearth of wingers, a historical issue, means that full-backs don't have to be particularly defensive.

QPR's problem was their centre-backs. Rio Ferdinand may once have been ideal to play the role of the passer who steps out into midfield, but he has looked every one of his 35 years so far this season, while Richard Dunne, playing to his left, simply doesn't have the mobility to cover across behind the wing-back.

The sale of Remy to Chelsea forced a rethink anyway, and against Sunderland at home, QPR, having lost their opening two games, were in a more conventional

4-4-1-1 formation.

Van Gaal was faced with a similar issue. His two key players were Robin Van Persie and Wayne Rooney, and given neither is keen on playing wide – in a possible 4-3-3 – that meant playing them as a pair. Van Gaal, though, is a coach who has always preferred a midfield three – a problem initially at United given their lack of squad depth in that area. So, like Redknapp, his solution was to go to three at the back.

A back three has two other advantages: for a team playing deep and ceding midfield, it offers additional protection; for a team pushing high, it offers the possibility of getting another player high up the pitch to press early. The former is how Hull City have used the formation successfully and how Redknapp presumably wanted to use it. The latter is probably of more relevance to Van Gaal, although Angel Di Maria's excellence on the counter-attack means United may look to sit deep and break against better sides.

There was one other possible solution to Van Gaal's dilemma – one that has been intensified by the arrival of Radamel Falcao – and it was that which he took against QPR. The back four returned, the front two remained, and in midfield he fielded a diamond: Daley Blind holding at the back of midfield, flanked by Ander Herrera and Di Maria, with Juan Mata behind Rooney and Van Persie.

It's not, of course, that far removed from 3-5-2. Push Blind back a few yards, advance the two full-backs and the shapes are all but indistinguishable. In a 4-3-1-2 (or 4-1-2-1-2), there is an onus on the full-backs to offer width and a responsibility for the holding player to offer cover when they do.

**Caught napping... James Chester (far right) beats QPR's Ferdinand to score for Hull City**

**A question of formation...Van Gaal**

The diamond has been coming back into vogue in England, with Brendan Rodgers using it to some effect at Liverpool and then Roy Hodgson using it with the national side.

In both cases Raheem Sterling becomes the key creator; his pace and trickery transferred from the flank to a role behind the strikers. That, in turn, is part of a wider trend of using players who would usually be considered wingers in a central role, testing centre-backs and midfield holders against quick players who can dribble, a task traditionally left to full-backs.

Terms such as 4-4-2 and 3-5-2 have always been a little crude and are general designations to give an outline of the shape of a team's play. Increasingly it feels that the key battles are being fought on a micro level within those frameworks. Certainly the widespread dismissal of 3-5-2 and acceptance of the diamond, when the two as practised by United are so similar, makes little sense.

Formations in themselves are never good or bad, right or wrong; what matters is their application. WS

**VAN GAAL'S DEFENSIVE OPTIONS: PLAY WITH THREE AT THE BACK OR WITH FOUR?**

# ClubFocus

## INTERNAZIONALE

# New era in Milan

The arrival of an Indonesian businessman was a milestone in the history of Serie A. **Paddy Agnew reports**

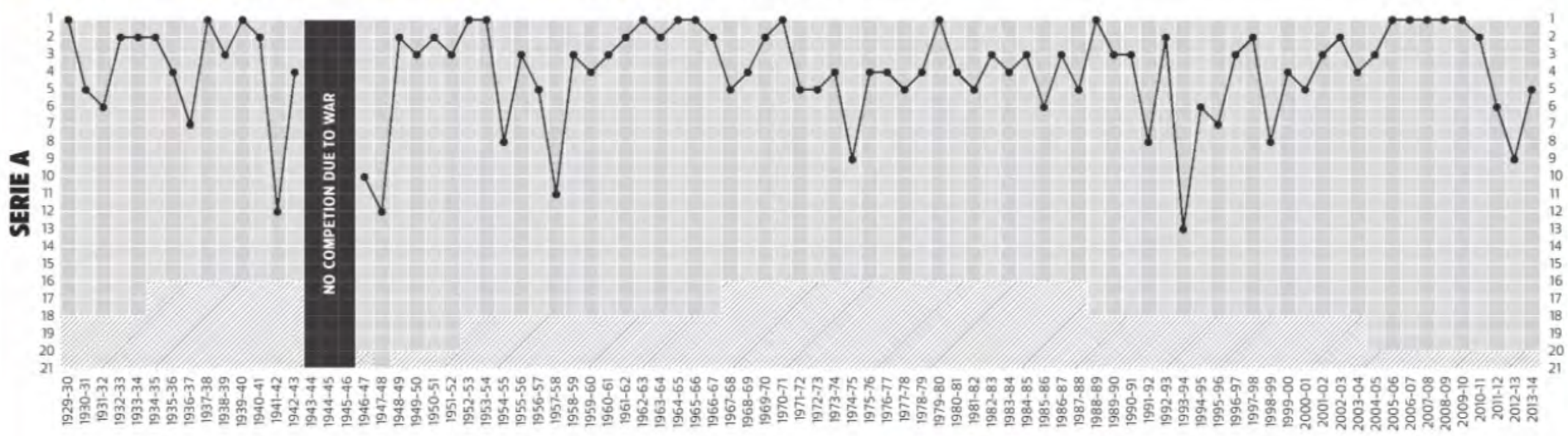
When Indonesian media tycoon Erick Thohir, the man who acquired a 70 per cent shareholding in Internazionale last year, gave one of his first interviews to the Italian media, he had a surprise in store for the fans. Asked to name his favourite all-time Inter player, he cited Nicola Ventola, a striker for the *Nerazzurri* between 1998 and 2004.

With such greats as Giuseppe Meazza and Sandro Mazzola in the past, or Ronaldo and Zlatan Ibrahimovic in more recent times, to name just four to choose from, is highly unlikely that your average Inter fan would put Ventola – decent player though he was – at the top of their all-time great list.

A couple of days earlier, Diego Maradona had suggested that Thohir could not tell a soccer ball from an American football, and for a moment Inter supporters began to wonder if there might be some truth in that little dig.

The mystery, however, was soon ➤

### INTERNAZIONALE LEAGUE POSITIONS 1930-2014




### HONOURS

**1939** Italian Cup winners
**1964** Intercontinental Cup winners, European Cup winners
**1965** Intercontinental Cup winners, European Cup winners
**1978** Italian Cup winners
**1982** Italian Cup winners
**1989** Italian Super Cup winners
**1991** UEFA Cup winners
**1994** UEFA Cup winners (*right*)
**1998** UEFA Cup winners
**2005** Italian Cup winners, Italian Super Cup winners

**2006** Italian Cup winners, Italian Super Cup winners
**2008** Italian Super Cup winners
**2010** Italian Cup winners, Italian Super Cup winners, Club World Cup winners, Champions League winners
**2011** Italian Cup winners

Meaning business... (from left) Juan, Vidic and Icardi

Riches all around... Thohir and Inter's array of trophies

Dominant... Vidic clears against Roma

explained. Ventola is married to the model Kara Luyet, whose mother is Indonesian, making Ventola easily the best-known Inter player in that country.

Speaking recently at the Asia Pacific Media Forum, 44-year-old Thohir admitted candidly that when he bought his majority shareholding last autumn he was a complete unknown to the Inter fans. One year on, the fans know who he is and what he looks like, but questions about his impact on the club remain.

Anyone who imagined that his governance of Inter would follow the big-spending lines of Roman Abramovich at Chelsea or the Qatar Investment Authority at Paris Saint-Germain will have been disappointed. The new-look Inter did not go out and spend megabucks on Colombia's James Rodriguez, Toni Kroos of Germany, Argentina's Angel Di Maria or any other star from the World Cup.

> "I have been asked to take care of Inter and I will do it"
>
> Inter president Erick Thohir

Instead, the summer's transfer campaign came up with the likes of Serb defender Nemanja Vidic (Manchester United), French midfielder Yann M'Vila (Rubin Kazan), Brazilian defender Dodo (Roma), Chilean midfielder Gary Medel (Cardiff City) and Italo-Argentinian striker Pablo Osvaldo (Juventus).

All are more than useful players and, with the exception of Vidic, still in their 20s. More importantly, they all arrived on the cheap.

For Thohir's Inter it was always going to be about getting the books in order rather than galactic spending. Italian financial daily *Il Sole 24 Ore* calculates that by June 2013, Inter had €423million worth of debts (as opposed to assets worth €145m), while the club closed the

## THE POWER CURVE

The key figures behind Inter

**ERICK THOHIR**

US-educated Indonesian whose Mahaka Media group owns newspapers, magazines and TV companies. Co-owner of MLS club DC United and the Philadelpha Eagles NBA franchise, he bought a 70 per cent stake in Inter last year.

**MASSIMO MORATTI**

The 69-year-old petro-billionaire remains an influential figure at the club, despite selling a majority share to Thohir last year. His father Angelo owned Inter during the club's golden era of the 1950s and 1960s.

**MARCO FASSONE**

The club's director-general performs a general manager role and was instrumental in keeping Fredy Guarin at the club. Previously had similar roles at Juventus and Napoli.

**PIERO AUSILIO**

Promoted to sporting director in 2013, replacing Marco Branca. Likely to have a key role in the scouting and development of talent in the coming years.

**MICHAEL BOLINGBROKE**

CEO poached this summer from Manchester United, where he was chief operating officer, to develop the club's commercial strategy.

**WALTER MAZZARRI**

Attack-minded coach who took Napoli into the Champions League. Recently extended his contract until 2016.

Danger...Osvaldo creates havoc in the Sassuolo defence

Support...Inter fans get behind their heroes at San Siro

financial year with a hefty deficit.

And here's the rub. In the good/bad old days, debts like that at a big Italian club would have been looked after by an industrial-baron owner. In the case of Inter, experts calculate that the former owner, petrol billionaire Massimo Moratti, poured no less than €1.2billion into the club during his 18 years' ownership.

That was the way Italian football went. The huge success of Italian clubs, especially in the 1980s and 1990s, relied on the "industrial baron" model. In other words, when the going got tough, when a fantastic new player needed to be bought, a "sugar daddy" owner coughed up the money – be he media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi at Milan, Moratti at Inter or the FIAT-owning Agnelli family at Juve.

Not surprisingly, these three clubs have dominated recent Italian history, largely because they have had the financial power. Only twice in the last 24 years – Lazio in 2000 and Roma in 2001 – has the Serie A title been lifted by a club other than Milan, Inter or Juve. However, the two entrepreneurs behind those successes, Sergio Cragnotti at Lazio and Franco Sensi at Roma, basically ran themselves into liquidation in the process.

The initial impression given by Thohir is that he has no intention of following the old industrial-baron model. Ideally, his Inter will stand on its own two feet by reducing its running costs (including player purchases and contracts), by maximising revenue from ticket sales and by developing an international market for brand Inter. Sounds easy, no?

After an initial period when he made a series of PR moves such as visiting players and staff at the club's Appiano Gentile training complex and dropping in on Milan-based sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport* for a morning chat, Thohir has moved into more serious action.

This year has seen a series of important changes both on and off the pitch. Among the players, an entire old guard has finally – much too late, many would say – been disbanded, including the heroes of the 2010 treble campaign such as Esteban Cambiasso (Leicester City), Diego Milito (Racing Avellaneda), Walter Samuel (Basle) and Javier Zanetti, who has retired as a player but now has the role of vice-president.

Off the field, there have been a series of significant changes, especially with regard to the administrative side of the club. Former Manchester United man Michael Bolingbroke has been appointed CEO, former Apple manager Claire Lewis is the new marketing director and Michael Williamson, the former CEO at DC United, the MLS club owned by Thohir, is the new chief financial officer. The "Anglophonic Invasion" has begun. Furthermore, and not unimportantly, Marco Branca has been replaced by Piero Ausilio, the sports director responsible for Inter's transfer market activity.

If Inter really do intend to regain a place among the 10 best clubs in the world, as Thohir has said often, then it will have to change dimension, moving from an essentially Italy-based business model out into the global market. The point is to move on from the almost total dependency on TV rights that has so dominated Italian football in recent decades.

And there is the gamble. Assuming they manage to get their books in order (not so easy), and assuming they manage to put together a competitive team (even harder), they still have to sort out the stadium problem.

It no longer makes sense to play in the city-owned San Siro, for which Inter pay a rent. Rather, they need their own stadium complex where, in theory at least, they will make money from both the box office and from ancillary facilities such as shops, restaurants and cafes.

Which is why two of the people that Thohir visited first last November were Milan mayor Giuliano Pisapia and the president of the Lombardy region, Roberto Maroni. The stadium situation is currently far from settled. Basically, Inter would appear to have two options: either build their own new arena or seriously renovate the San Siro with or without the help of city cousins, Milan.

Inevitably, three-way discussions on this issue are likely to prove both complex and long drawn-out.

In the meantime, Thohir made his own thoughts on the matter clear at the Asia Pacific Media Forum, saying: "Clubs cannot rely only on TV rights but they must also make the most out of match-ticket revenue. Italy should do what they do in the USA, where a club gets a lot of support from its local community. I am talking about offering a club a 100-year lease for a piece of land on which to build a new stadium."

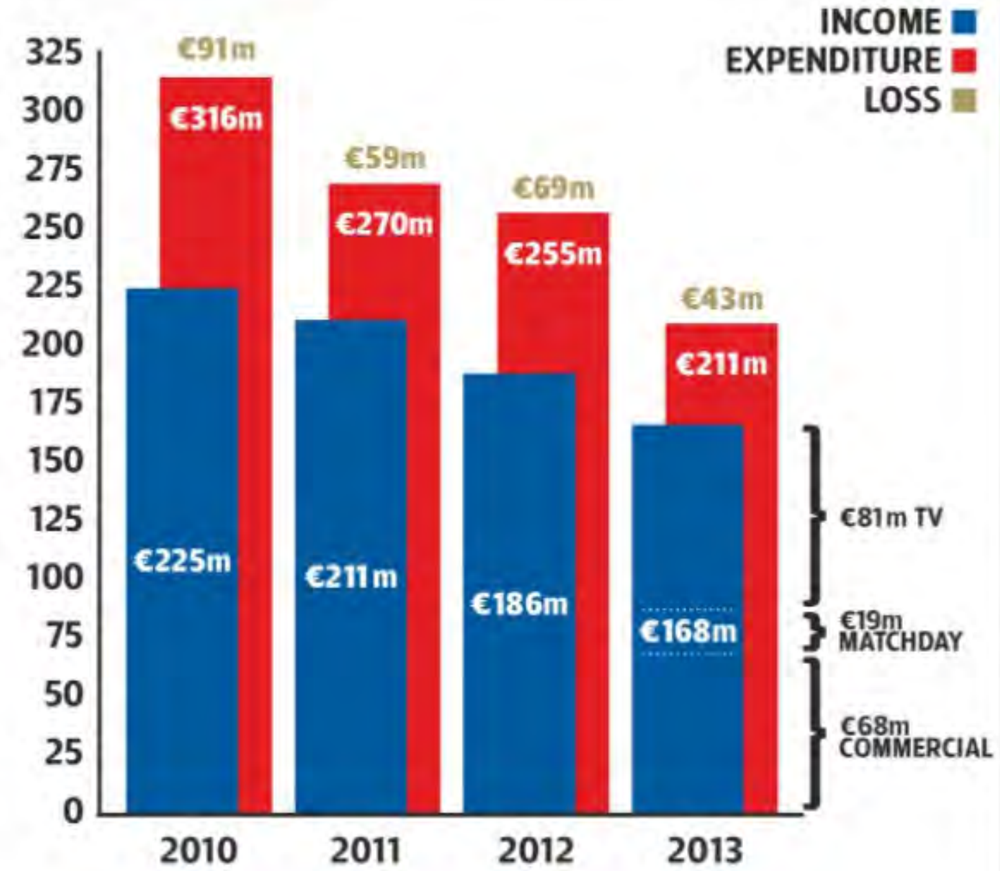
So important is the stadium question that many economic commentators speculated that Thohir and his partners have negotiated a so-called "PUT" clause in their purchase of the club. This would allow them to sell their 70 per cent holding back to Moratti in the event that various economic realities did not add up. One such reality might be any difficulties linked to building a new stadium. A club spokesperson, however, told *World Soccer*

## PROFIT & LOSS

For almost two decades oil billionaire Massimo Moratti funded huge losses at Inter. Italian financial journal *Il Sole 24 Ore* estimated that the net deficit from the Moratti era topped more than €1.2billion, with the Moratti family covering the shortfall from their own pockets.

New owner Erick Thohir has vowed to cut the losses and has taken out a €230m loan, secured against future TV earnings, to clear debts and fund ongoing expenditure.

However, Inter may still face a UEFA investigation into whether the club has breached Financial Fairplay regulations. Inter's revenue has fallen from a peak in 2010, when the club won the Champions League, but the losses are being reduced each year.



that no such agreement exists.

In the meantime, the Inter season has got off to what can only be called a mixed start. The good news concerns a 1-0 Europa League win over Dnipro in Ukraine and, for the second consecutive season, a 7-0 thrashing of little Sassuolo in Serie A. The bad news came from draws with Torino and Palermo, suggesting it is by no means guaranteed the club will achieve its seasonal objective of a third-place, Champions League-zone finish.

For the time being, the spine of coach Walter Mazzarri's team consists of goalkeeper Samir Handanovic, defenders Andrea Ranocchia and Vidic, midfielders Medel, Hernanes and Mateo Kovacic, with an all-Argentinian front line of Mauro Icardi and/or Rodrigo Palacio and Osvaldo.

Despite such talent, Mazzarri's side has thus far looked more willing than able, although it is still early days. One problem which Mazzarri and the club seem to have finally resolved concerns the talented Colombian midfielder Fredy Guarin. For much of this year, Guarin seemed to be on his way out of Inter. Last January, his proposed move to Juventus – in a deal which would have seen him exchanged for Juve's Montenegro striker Mirko Vucinic – prompted such a negative fan reaction that Thohir, on the advice of the Moratti family, called off the deal.

> "I have an excellent rapport with Thohir and can assure you so far he has been the ideal president"
>
> Inter coach Walter Mazzarri on the club's president

Inter fans had a point, since the 28-year-old Guarin would look to have a lot more football in front of him than an injury-prone 30-year-old who has since moved to United Arab Emirates club Al Jazira. For much of this summer too, Guarin appeared to be on the point of moving, with Inter ready to replace him with such as PSG's Ezequiel Lavezzi.

But no such move materialised – and Mazzarri, Inter and Guarin have had to wipe the slate clean and start all over again. Getting the best out of Guarin, as well as from players such as Icardi and Hernanes, represents one of the big challenges for a coach who might not have been Thohir's first choice but who now appears to have the Indonesian's full approval.

Inter's progress, or lack of it, this season will be closely monitored not only by Thohir and Inter fans. In a way similar to the now US-controlled Roma, Inter could represent the way forward for Italian football which, on and off the field, is so clearly in need of new ideas, new energies and new directions. WS

## THE COACH

**Walter MAZZARRI**

**Age 53 (01.10.61)**

A former journeyman midfielder who had a spell in Serie A with Empoli in the 1980s but has been far more successful as a coach. Guided Livorno into Serie A for the first time in 2004 and then kept Reggina in the top flight before moving on to Sampdoria, where he oversaw a sixth-placed finish in 2008. Joined Napoli in October 2009, replacing former Italy coach Roberto Donadoni. Steered Napoli to second place in Serie A and Champions League qualification playing an attacking 3-4-3 formation. Joined Inter in summer 2013 and recently extended his contract until June 2016.

## THE STADIUM

**STADIO GIUSEPPE MEAZZA, SAN SIRO (capacity 80,000)**

Named after the Italian World Cup striker who played for both Milan clubs in the 1930s and located in the San Siro district of Milan. Upgraded for the 1990 World Cup finals, it will host the 2016 Champions League Final.

## THE KIT

**HOME KIT**

**SECOND KIT**

## THE SQUAD

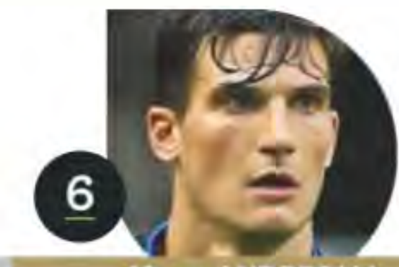
### GOALKEEPERS

**46 Tommasso BERNI**
Age 31 (06.03.83)
Back-up keeper capped by Italy at every youth level up to under-21. Returned to Inter, his first club, this summer.

**30 Juan Pablo CARRIZO (Arg)**
Age 30 (06.05.84)
Former River Plate no 1 and one-time Argentina international who was rarely first choice during a long spell at Lazio. Joined Inter in 2013.

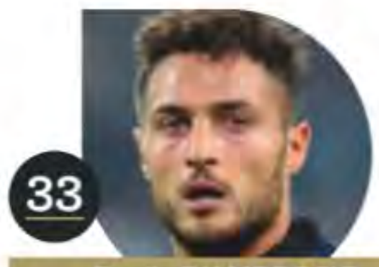
**1 Samir HANDANOVIC (Sln)**
Age 30 (14.07.84)
Slovenian international who has been first choice since moving from Udinese in 2012. Noted penalty and shot stopper.

### DEFENDERS



**6 Marco ANDREOLLI**
Age 28 (10.06.86)
Former Italy under-21 cap who has been a back-up centre-back since returning to Inter, his first club, after spells at Roma, Sassuolo and Chievo.

**14 Hugo CAMPAGNARO (Arg)**
Age 34 (27.06.80)
Experienced centre-back who was a key figure for Mazzarri at Napoli. Played in Argentina's opening game at the 2014 World Cup.



**33 Danilo D'AMBROSIO**
Age 26 (09.09.88)
Italian under-21 left-back who joined from Torino in January 2014 but now challenged by Dodo's arrival. Twin Dario plays for Lecce.

**22 DODO (Bra)**
Age 22 (06.02.92)
Left-back who joined from Roma this summer. Once dubbed the "new Roberto Carlos" when linked with a move from Corinthians to England.

**2 JONATHAN (Bra)**
Age 28 (27.02.86)
Right wing-back who joined from Santos in 2011, having started out at Cruzeiro. Spent the second half of the 2012-13 season on loan at Parma.

**5 JUAN Jesus (Bra)**
Age 23 (10.06.91)
Left-sided centre-back who can also play at full-back. Has been compared to former Inter defender Lucio. Signed from Internacional in 2012.

**25 Ibrahima MBAYE (Sen)**
Age 19 (19.11.94)
Left-back given his debut by Mazzarri's predecessor Andrea Stramaccioni, who had discovered Mbaye when Inter's youth coach.

**55 Yuto NAGATOMO (Jap)**
Age 28 (12.09.86)
Tireless left-back or wing-back who played for FC Tokyo while studying at university, where he wrote a thesis on British culture. Club vice-captain.

**23 Andrea RANOCCHIA**
Age 26 (16.02.88)
Tall, commanding centre-back who joined from Genoa in 2011. Member of Italy's provisional World Cup squad but did not make the final cut.

**15 Nemanja VIDIC (Ser)**
Age 32 (21.10.81)
Authoritative centre-back signed on a free transfer this summer after eight trophy-laden seasons at Manchester United.

### MIDFIELDERS

**13 Fredy GUARIN (Col)**
Age 28 (30.06.86)
Playmaker who almost joined Juventus in exchange for Marko Vucinic in January. Member of Colombia's 2014 World Cup squad.

**88 HERNANES (Bra)**
Age 29 (29.05.85)
Hugely talented and versatile central midfielder who made a controversial switch from Lazio in January. Member of Brazil's 2014 World Cup squad.

**10 Mateo KOVACIC (Cro)**
Age 20 (06.05.94)
Versatile attacker with great technical and creative abilities. Played at the 2014 World Cup. Signed from Dinamo Zagreb in deal worth €15million.

**44 Rene KRHIN (Sln)**
Age 24 (21.05.90)
Defensive midfielder given a debut by Jose Mourinho but then shipped out to Bologna in a co-ownership deal. Returned to Milan this summer.

**17 Zdravko KUZMANOVIC (Ser)**
Age 27 (22.09.87)
Central midfielder who was born in Switzerland and played for the Swiss under-21s but is now an established Serbian international.

**90 Yann M'VILA (Fra)**
Age 24 (29.06.90)
Tough ball-winner who can also distribute well. Banned from the French national side last year after an unauthorised night out. On loan from Rubin Kazan.

**18 Gary MEDEL (Chl)**
Age 27 (03.08.87)
Nicknamed "Pitbull", he brings midfield bite, although he played in central defence for his country at the World Cup this summer.

### FORWARDS

**20 Joel OBI (Nga)**
Age 23 (22.05.91)
Burst onto the scene in 2011 but spent last season on loan at Parma.

**97 Federico BONAZZOLI**
Age 17 (21.05.97)
Teenage prospect who became Inter's second youngest debutant, three days before his 17th birthday.

**9 Mauro ICARDI (Arg)**
Age 21 (19.02.93)
Exciting youngster who is married to Argentinian model Wanda Nara, previously wife of his then Sampdoria team-mate Maxi Lopez.

**7 Dani OSVALDO**
Age 28 (12.01.86)
Buenos Aires-born Italian international. Spent second half of last season on loan at Juventus after falling out of favour at Southampton.

**8 Rodrigo PALACIO (Arg)**
Age 32 (05.02.82)
Prolific striker who brings a physical presence to attack. Joined from Genoa in 2012. A substitute for Argentina in the 2014 World Cup Final.

**(All ages as of 01.10.14)**

Facetoface

CRISTIANO RONALDO

# "I've not changed over the years. My thought is still the same: I want to be the best"

The winner of UEFA's Best Player in Europe award on his past, present and future

**Last season you scored 32 goals in La Liga, you won the Golden Shoe and there were 17 goals in the Champions League – something that nobody has ever done before. How do you feel about winning this award?**
Individual awards are the result of having achieved your targets as a collective. Fortunately, we had a fantastic season. We won the Champions League, the Spanish Cup and the European Super Cup. An individual trophy is the prize for playing well as a team but obviously, I'm not going to lie, I really wanted to win this trophy.

**You've twice been named best player in the world and won the Ballon d'Or three times. What is left for you?**
To remain the best. I've not changed over the years. My thought is still the same. In my work I want to be the best.

**You seem to be a very contented man...**
I am a person for who, thank God, things have gone all right. I lack nothing. I have good health, my family is well, I have plenty of friends, so it would be unfair of me to say I'm sad. My football career is in full swing, I feel good.

**Did you play the Champions League Final in Lisbon and the World Cup with a knee injury?**
Obviously yes. Maybe if I had stopped, I would have been fine. It was not easy after the season we had, when things had gone very, very well. But I did not want to miss the Champions League Final and also the World Cup. I was not in perfect condition but I forced myself and it went well at club level. We won the Champions League, I scored a goal and the team won *la decima* (a 10th European Cup), which was what we all expected in Madrid. With Portugal it was more complicated because things did not go quite right, but it cannot always go well.

**What hurts more: the knee – or the head for all the things that have been said about the knee?**
The head always hurts more.

**Last year doctors advised you to rest. Was there a point when you risked more than you should, that you could have jeopardised your career?**
Obviously yes. In life you don't win without making sacrifices and sometimes you have to take risks. Perhaps in other circumstances I would have behaved differently, but we were involved in major competitions so it was more difficult. Things went well, I beat the record for goals in the Champions League. On vacation I rested for one month and did nothing other than treatment and care for my body. Sometimes I take my body to the limit, but all competitive athletes are the same. I feel better now, though. In pre-season you have ups and downs. When you tour with Real Madrid, you suffer travel fatigue and jet lag.

**Everyone says winning *la decima* has eased the pressure, but now comes the pressure of winning it for an 11th time...**
Everybody who plays for Real Madrid knows the pressure at this club. It is not only within the club, but also outside, from the fans, the press. And it's natural, because we are talking about the best club in the world. Yes, I think that the pressure of *la decima* was huge. A club of our size believes we can win it every year, but I think this year we will be calmer psychologically. I do not think it will be the same.

**Has 2014 been the best year of your career so far?**
Maybe because of all the collective and individual successes, but I've been at the same level for the last six or seven years. Maybe the small difference is we won titles, but personally nothing has changed.

**Carlo Ancelotti says Madrid have a better team than last year...**
We will only know at the end of the season. You can buy the 40 best players in the world and still not make a great team. I'm not saying the players we have bought are not very good players; they are players who want to help Real Madrid. But you have to do the maths at the end of the season. See what we have won then. I am convinced that things will go well for them individually and for us as a team.

**Is the relationship between the players and Ancelotti as idyllic as it seems from the outside?**
It is perfect. The coach is doing a phenomenal job. He's an extraordinary person, a great coach and we are happy to have him.

**Are you sick of the constant comparisons with Lionel Messi or have you learned to live with it?**
It is part of my life. It is normal that people compare us. It's like in Formula 1, the comparisons between Ferrari and Mercedes. I'm used to it, not only after all these years in Madrid, but in Manchester it was the same, so I know how to live with it.

**It's often said that you and Messi have a bad personal relationship...**
Not at all. We're *companeros* (partners), work colleagues. Obviously, outside of football I have no relationship with him or with other players. He tries to do the best for his club and his country, and I try to do the same for mine. In that sense, it's safe to say, a certain rivalry exists. But we must face this rivalry in a positive spirit, because it is a good thing.

*Interview by Miguel Serrano Cejas (Marca/ESM)*

"I defend the Madrid shirt because it is the club that pays me and gives me everything, and I defend the colours of Portugal, because it is my country"

Facetoface

DARIJO SRNA

# "The day that will be the end of the war, we will return to Donetsk and kiss the street"

The 32-year-old Croat is captain of Shakhtar Donetsk, who are currently exiled in the capital Kiev because of civil war in Ukraine

**You are currently based in Kiev, far from the fighting in Donetsk. What has the atmosphere been like among the squad as they have watched the war unfold?**
It is very strange. A lot of teams from the Donetsk region play in Kiev: Mariupol, Olimpik, Metalurh, Shakhtar. It is a strange situation, and strange for us. For me, it is not my first war. I had the war in Croatia. It is a difficult situation but we want to return as soon as possible to Donetsk. We want peace in Donetsk. We want to play in the Donbass Arena with our fans. But until that we stay in Kiev. We are very professional. Our president [Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine's richest man] sorts out everything for us to stay here in a good hotel, a good pitch...

**Where are you playing your games?**
When we play at home we play in Lviv [in the far east of the country]. It is a new stadium. They respect us there. We'll play there in the Champions League and we played Metalurh there. There were 20,000 people. Next time we hope there are more. What can I say? We want to play for our city, our Donbass, for our fans, for our president. Shakhtar have already been champions for five years. We've 20 trophies in the last 10 years. We have a big team and big coach [Mircea Lucescu].

**As captain of the club, how have you seen the situation affect your Ukrainian team-mates?**
It is difficult. It is their country. Also for me it is not easy. I've lived here for 11 years, in Donetsk. It is my home. It is my second country. It is my club. I have a house there and live there with my family. I'm happy there. It is not easy when every day we wake up, open the newspaper and turn on the television. The day that will be the end of the war, we will return to Donetsk and kiss the street.

**How would you describe Shakhtar?**
This is the best club in Eastern Europe. We have a big president who has been in football for 18 years. He built this club step by step. He built the camp, took a very good coach, good players. He built a stadium, the most beautiful in Europe. We also sell a lot of big players: Fernandinho to Manchester City, Willian to Chelsea. We buy a lot of fantastic players. The last transfer window was the best in our history. Bernard played at the World Cup. We sign a lot of young Brazilians, great talents. This club is better. Why? Because we like young players, and from these we build the big players that lead Shakhtar.

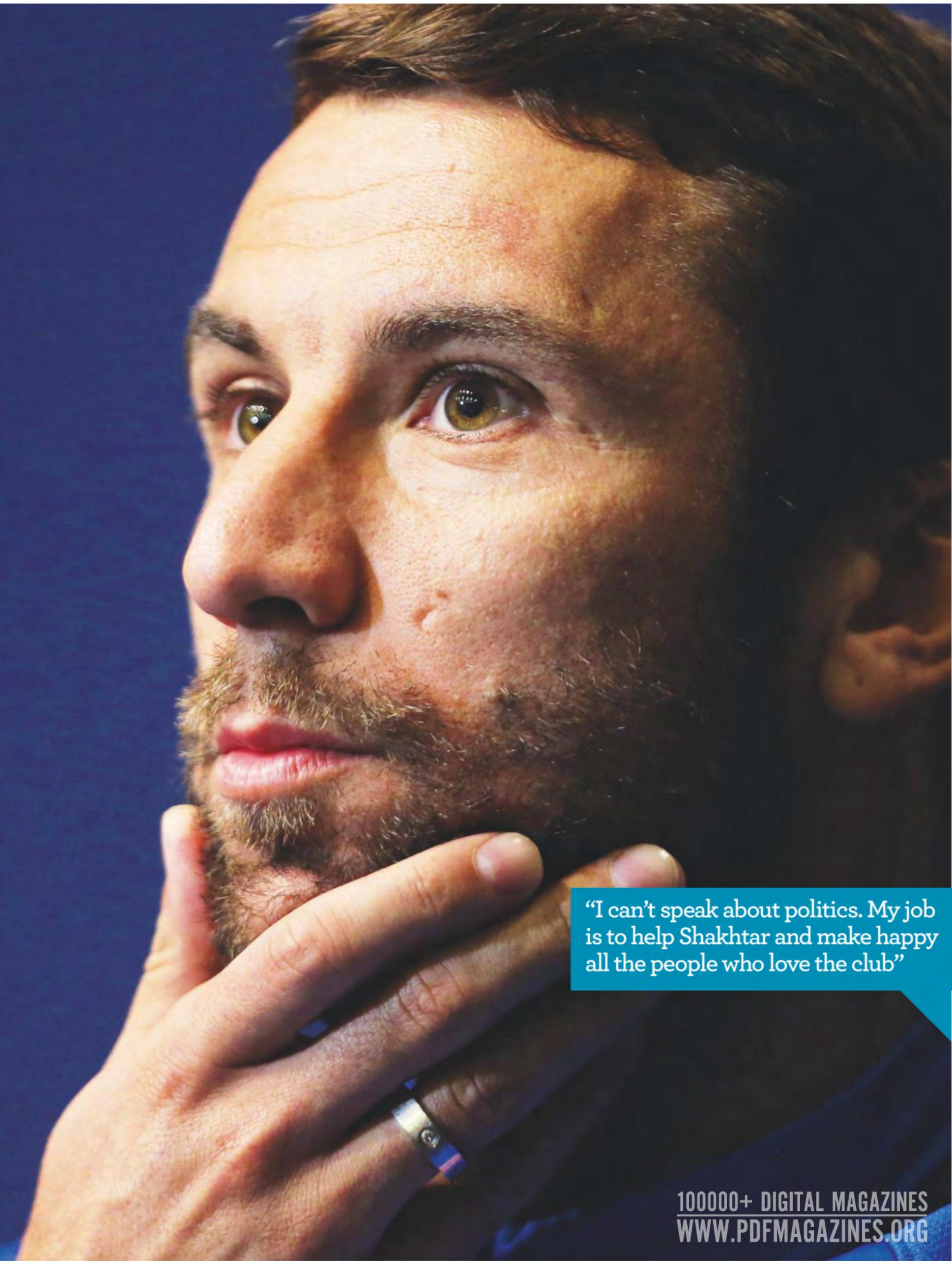
Srna has played over 400 games for Shakhtar Donetsk since joining from Hajduk Split in 2003. During his time at the club he has won eight Ukrainian league titles, five domestic cups and the 2009 UEFA Cup.

**Ukraine is a big country, with football clubs in all the regions. When the war ends, can football help to ease the current divisions?**
Of course. Football is one of the most important things in the world. Everyone loves football. Look at Manchester United. They played in the USA and 107,000 people turned up. First I want peace in Donetsk, peace in Donbass, to come home and live our lives like we did before. To play in the Donbass Arena. It will be better than before. There will be more emotion. We'll show how much we love Donetsk.

**What about Donetsk? Is there a feeling of wanting to be part of Russia? Or do people from the city feel Ukrainian?**
We have lots of supporters from Russia, Ukraine, Croatia, Serbia, Georgia. I can't speak about politics. The people in the top positions must speak to each other and find a way to end the war. I am a Shakhtar player, I respect all our fans. My job is to help Shakhtar and make happy all the people who love the club.

**When you play your league game against Olimpik in the Donetsk derby, are there plans to show solidarity with what's going on in the city?**
We have a lot of friends from Donetsk. Donbass is such a rich region in football, with a lot of teams, a lot of stadiums. It is a unique situation. As we say in Croatia: "What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger." Because if we stay here we know how much we can help the people with our result. We won the Super Cup, which was very important for the city, the region and the fans. I hope in this difficult moment we can help them somehow with victory. We have the Champions League too. I am sure we will play in the Donbass Arena again one day. But the fans of Shakhtar, Ukraine and the Donbass must know that we play for them.

*Interview by James Montague*



"I can't speak about politics. My job is to help Shakhtar and make happy all the people who love the club"

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Facetoface

JEROME CHAMPAGNE

# "There is something seriously wrong. It is FIFA's responsibility to do something about that"

The only man to emerge as a challenger to Sepp Blatter explains his reasons for standing for the FIFA presidency

**How would a Champagne FIFA look?**
It would be strong, democratic, inclusive, close to the fans, transparent and absolutely determined to correct the sporting imbalances which come with the economic state of our sport. It would be a FIFA which would capitalise on what has been done correctly over 40 years, but not afraid of the controversies. We would have congresses where we debate things and we would need a strong governance which respects the sensitivities of both the DFB, which has eight million regular players but only one vote in congress, and those other federations whose population could not fill the stadium of Dortmund.

**If, next May, Sepp Blatter suddenly withdrew, you could be the new FIFA president. Would your first act be to have him appointed honorary president by acclamation?**
Of course. Firstly, because he would deserve it. We can say a lot of things because we live in a democracy and everyone can be criticised, but there is no doubt what has been done in the last 40 years is remarkable. When Joao Havelange arrived as president in 1974 there were eight employees and no money. Look at what FIFA has become. I would want to continue taking our competitions all around the world, increasing the development programme and take the right [political] decisions: like, in 1976, FIFA expelling the white federation of apartheid South Africa.

**What would you want to attack in your first 100 days?**
We have some central issues. Immediately we need to focus on a strategy to correct the sporting imbalances in football, whether it's between continents, inside the continents or inside the leagues. In Switzerland, for example, Basle are bound to win. That's an illustration of the problem we need to address – and it's not going to be an easy process. Secondly, we need institutional reform. We will have to change the statutes so it will be a priority to consult immediately with all the presidents of the FAs. I want to restore the centrality of the power of the FAs. I also want to rebalance the continents. FIFA is not alone; it's the same debate as about the security council of the UN. Belgium has more voting rights than China because the parameters were set according to the gross domestic product of 40 or so years ago. The third part will be to look at what we need to do to restore FIFA's image because if we want to be more proactive we need to be respected. A lot of criticism levelled at FIFA is unfair. When *The Daily Telegraph* reported a Qatari former president of the AFC gave $2million to the family of a former Trinidadian president of CONCACAF it was "FIFA corruption". No – they are confederations. FIFA is not responsible, but we need to restore our authority to be able to say something about these things.

**Presidential matters ...Champagne says he has no issue with Blatter's U-turn and his decision to seek another term**

**Which statutes would you change?**
We need to have some institutional reforms of the ExCo. Imagine that the British people elect a prime minister but when he arrives at Downing Street he finds he has a government already appointed by someone else. In the four years of Mr Blatter's first mandate, from 1998 to 2002, it was as if Mr Obama had to govern with John McCain and Sarah Palin keeping grudges and trying to sabotage him – not in Congress but in the cabinet itself. This is not a democratic system. FIFA belongs to the FAs [not the confederations]. That's why my first proposed reform is to give a majority of seats inside the ExCo to sitting presidents of the FAs elected in the Congress. Yes, we would also have the seats elected by the confederations, but it would mean the president having a majority to carry through the programme for which he had been elected. The second reform is rebalancing the continental representation within the ExCo. What I propose is, initially, to give one more seat to all the continents which are under-represented. Europe has 54 federations with eight seats; Africa has 54 with four. We need to resolve that. We also need the other main stakeholders in the ExCo. It's easy with players because FIFPro ▸

"We need to reconcile FIFA with English football. There has been a lot of misunderstanding. But look at the impact of the English league. We cannot run football at FIFA level if an important part of the community is in dissent"

**WHO IS JEROME CHAMPAGNE?**
The 56-year-old Frenchman was the first candidate to declare for the FIFA presidency, last January, even while acknowledging that Sepp Blatter remained runaway favourite to win a fifth term. A former journalist, he joined FIFA as a senior aide to Blatter in 1998, but that all fell apart when he was ousted in January 2010 after losing one political battle too many.

has 60 unions but we don't have world organisations of leagues or of clubs. We need to create that because, if we discuss amendments to the transfer regulations, we need to discuss it with the employers and employees. We can't decide these things on our own as we did in the past. People aren't very happy if you behave in an authoritarian way. Also we need to build a strong "Chinese wall" between the governance of the ExCo and the commercial activities. When there was no money in FIFA the fact that the ExCo approved the commercial contracts had no relevance. That all changed in 1996 and 1997 when the value of the TV rights of the World Cup in 2002 and 2006 multiplied by 10 – today you can multiply the value by 20 or 25 – and a lot of allegations around FIFA have been based on this confusion. A fifth reform should modify the situation of the general secretary. Gary Lineker – whom I admired as a player – has said Mr Blatter was a dictator. With all respect, he doesn't know how it works. The general secretary is proposed by the president and approved by the ExCo and can only be dismissed by the president with the approval of the ExCo. So now the general secretaries have their own political life because the confederations are their life insurance if they have a fall out with the president. The FIFA president should not be a dictator but have the democratic power to implement the programme on which he has been elected. Today we don't have that.

**Would you rebalance the World Cup slots as well?**
I'm not against tinkering with the format because today we have a continent such as Europe which qualifies one out of four of its teams while Africa qualifies only one out of 10. Also, if we want to keep the organisation of big sports events in the democracies we have to redo the way we organise the bidding. FIFA's responsibility is only for the stadia and the training camps. FIFA should rethink what we impose on the host cities. If you go on vacation to France you have to accept French idiosyncrasies; if you go on vacation to England you accept the weather.

**Michel Platini said a federation should be headed by a former player, not by an administrator. How do you respond?**
Down the history of football, and all sport, we have had a lot of great leaders who have not been professional sports people. In any case, choosing the FIFA president is not electing a national coach or someone to go on a talk show on a Saturday night and talk about the teams' tactics.

Imbalance...Algeria (in white) take on Belgium at the World Cup. Champagne would like to see confederations given a fairer representation at the finals

**Are you confident you fulfil all the qualifications for a candidate?**
Of course.

**Do you have any problems with Europe?**
No. I am a European!

**Do you have your five nominations already secure?**
I think I will have. I can't tell you who they are, but I hope to have some from everywhere. Last year I announced only the support of Pele because I know some FAs have an internal process before they decide to support a particular personality. Also, a lot of FAs are afraid of the consequences if they come out too early to say who they are supporting. I'm not naive. I've been inside the system.

**Should the voting be open to view?**
No. Public balloting can be a way to influence voting. At the CONCACAF Congress in Miami in 2002 I saw the pressure when the presidents had to stand up for the re-election of the incumbent president [Jack Warner] to say whether they supported him or not. What happened? The candidate from Mexico got only two votes. However, it's an interesting point concerning whether we should make the vote for the World Cup host public. I am also against term limits. Concepts like that have been put forward as solutions to fix anything. Personally, I don't believe in that. But I do believe in institutional reform.

**Why?**
Football is a huge success but we have serious problems. The sporting imbalances match the polarisation in our society. When I worked years ago at *France Football* we would say: "That's terrible, our French champions have been drawn against CSKA Sofia." Now CSKA's headquarters have been burned down by the fans because there is no money. So there is something seriously wrong and it is the responsibility of FIFA to do something about that. This election is not about who will run FIFA but which kind of FIFA we need. It should be about serving the game, about helping. It was created for that purpose by and for the FAs. But the clock is ticking.

**Issues with the confederations cost you your job at FIFA. Would you have problems working with some of the same people?**
I knew the election of 2011 was coming and I was a political fuse which was disposable because some larger issues were at play. If I am elected president I know I will have to work hand in hand with, for example, the UEFA president. But I've no grudges. What happened to me was a reflection of the institutional problems FIFA has been facing for the last 20 years.

**What's your relationship with Blatter?**
Professional. When we signed the provisional arrangement between the two federations of Cyprus I was there, and when Mr Blatter travels to Ramallah I'm there in my capacity [with the Palestinian Football Federation].

**Do you have any argument with his change of mind?**
No. He has a right to run, to change what he said. We have no understanding or agreement. There's nothing to prevent him.

*Interview by Keir Radnedge*

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# 6 of the best International debutants

Nick Bidwell profiles half a dozen players who won their first caps in September

## 1 MUNIR El Haddadi

SPAIN

The latest diamond to be cut at Barcelona's famed La Masia academy, the 19-year-old striker has certainly made a rip-roaring start to his professional career, scoring for the *Blaugrana* against Elche on the opening weekend of the season, then earning his first full Spain cap in a Euro 2016 qualifier versus Macedonia.

The Madrid-born offspring of a Moroccan father, the youngster had been courted by the federations of both Morocco and Qatar – who, bizarrely, were rumoured to be ready to offer him millions to play for them in their World Cup in 2022. But when the teenager was called up by Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque to replace injured Chelsea front-man Diego Costa, there was only ever going to be one outcome.

"It's a source of pride for me to play for *La Roja*, this is what I want to do," said El Haddadi, who is known in Spain as Munir. "I was speechless for a while when I first heard of my inclusion in the Spain squad. It's a dream that came true."

## 2 Joe GYAU

USA

Since leaving the IMG Academy – US football's school of excellence – for Germany in 2011, this gutsy winger has barely featured in the Bundesliga. But although he has been getting his kicks with Hoffenheim's youth and reserves sides, in the second division with St Pauli and now for Borussia Dortmund's second string, it hasn't stopped the 22-year-old climbing the Team America ladder.

After representing his country at schoolboy, junior, under-21 and Olympic level, the Florida native made his senior debut in a 1-0 friendly win over Czech Republic. Although lacking precision in his final ball at times, he did cause plenty of problems with his livewire activity and endeavour.

"You can see what he has in his locker," said national coach Jurgen Klinsmann, who has filled his squad with players who have connections to his native Germany during his time in charge. "He can improvise, he takes defenders on, if he loses the ball he chases back. All of these things we want to see."

Gyau is the third member of his family to play international football, following his father Philip, who won six caps for the US between 1989 and 1991, and grandfather Nana, who represented Ghana.

## 3 Ricardo HORTA

PORTUGAL

Outstanding for the Portugal under-20 side that came third in the summer's Toulon Tournament, the right-winger was promoted deservedly to the full squad this season and won his first *Seleccao* cap in the shock 1-0 home loss to Albania in the opening Euro qualifier.

If Portugal's early exit from the World Cup in Brazil proved anything it was that they were an ageing, stale unit – and that the likes of 20-year-old Horta, who recently moved from Vitoria Setubal to La Liga club Malaga, could well be the cure.

A lifelong Benfica fan, he was brought up in the Lisbon giant's youth set-up but declared surplus to requirements at the age of 17. Following that bitter setback, he spectacularly rebuilt his career in Setubal, where his speed, creativity, superb ball control and impudence saw him become one of the most exciting prospects in the country.

## 4 Andrej KRAMARIC

**CROATIA**

Croatia's Niko Kovac clearly does not belong to the breed of coach who believe that prodigiously skilful footballers should be denied publicity and shielded from too much pressure.

After watching Kramaric impress up front on his debut in the friendly win over Cyprus, notably setting up Mario Mandzukic's opening goal with a bullish run down the right, Kovac described how the 23-year-old's movement in the box reminded him of legendary Croat striker Davor Suker. The media went big with the story so the youngster now has the thankless job of living up to the billing.

Just as well, then, that he is a relaxed and grounded character, not to mention extremely talented. Within the week he was again looking the part, coming off the bench to thump home the second goal in a European Championship qualifying victory against Malta.

He scored 30 goals in all competitions for Rijeka last season – including an incredible eight in a single domestic cup tie, against Zmaj Blato – but was still not included in Croatia's World Cup squad.

Accomplished as a second striker or on the right, he is two-footed, a threat when shooting from distance and definitely one of the leaders of the next generation of Balkan talent.

## 5 Trent SAINSBURY

**AUSTRALIA**

Little wonder the 22-year-old central defender tells a story about lying on his bed giggling on the morning of his national-team baptism in Belgium.

Deprived of a place in the Socceroos' World Cup squad after fracturing his patella in a freak accident on his debut early this year for Eredivisie side PEC Zwolle – he fell awkwardly onto a barely-concealed pitch water sprinkler – the Perth-born youngster battled hard to get back into international contention.

Australia's 2-0 loss in Liege might not have inspired many back home, but they had something to enthuse over in the former Central Coast Mariners defender. A fine reader of the game, quick over the ground and a calming presence on the ball, Sainsbury is sure to benefit from his time in Holland and must be in contention for Asian Cup action in January.

## 6 Simone ZAZA

**ITALY**

One of the main reasons for Italy's disastrous showing at the World Cup was their toothless, bland attack, and new *Azzurri* coach Antonio Conte might just have discovered the antidote in a 23-year-old striker who, despite only one full season in Serie A with Sassuolo, has taken to senior international football like a hawk to the gauntlet.

The first player from his club side to be capped by Italy, he was strong, forceful and enterprising in the friendly victory over Holland, and on the scoresheet against Norway in a Euro qualifier five days later. He is similar in build and style to former Italy, Juventus and Internazionale front-line bulldozer Christian Vieri.

The media is awash with stories about him at the moment; with tales of his fear of flying, his close relationship with his mother, Catarina, his reputation as a troublemaker in his younger days, his pet bulldogs and the fact that he does not drive.

He could, however, make even bigger headlines if Conte decides the ex-Atalanta, Sampdoria and Ascoli marksman is a more reliable option to eccentric superstar Mario Balotelli.

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# SAN MAMES Bilbao

Peterjon Cresswell visits Athletic's new stadium, built just a stone's throw from their famous old home

Champions League football is back in Bilbao for the first time in 16 years – which is a fitting way for Athletic to celebrate the completion of their new San Mames stadium.

Built on the former site of the Bilbao International Trade Fair, next to where the original San Mames stood, the club's new home was opened in September 2013, albeit while still only three-quarters finished and with a reduced capacity. Having been constructed in stages, the arena is now fully operational and has a capacity of over 53,000.

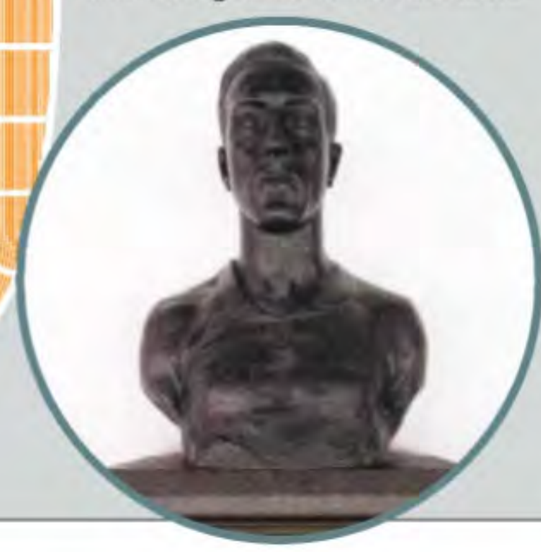
The old arena, known as *"La Catedral"*, was opened in 1913 and was the club's home for 100 years. Built by Basque-born Manuel Maria Smith, it ▸

Study in red...the impressive new stadium can hold more than 53,000

## TICKETS

While only season-ticket holders were admitted in 2013-14, it is thought that a few thousand tickets will be made available to the general public this season.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
It is a tradition for teams playing at San Mames for the first time to place flowers next to the bust (below) of former Athletic Bilbao striker Pichichi, who scored the first-ever goal at the old stadium.



Top viewing...the huge electronic scoreboard and replay screen

Facing their public...Bilbao players salute the fans after winning a Champions League qualifier

Basque landmark...fans gather outside the stadium shop

Player friendly...the home dressing room

Easy ride...San Mames metro station

## HOW TO GET THERE

The San Mames has a metro station of the same name, a few stops from the RENFE rail hub of Abando. It is also on tramway line A from the Euskotren station of Atxuri. Bilbao's main bus station, Termibus, with its easy connections to Bilbao Airport and the main cities of the Basque region and elsewhere in Spain, is also close by.

personified the long, proud history of football in the region, with the game having been introduced to this industrious northern port in the late 1800s by British miners and shipyard workers.

Comprising a grandiose wooden stand, a crescent of terracing and flower beds – not to mention a playing field of English turf that was shipped all the way from Britain – San Mames was light years ahead of the roped-off park pitches used elsewhere in Spain at the time. The old stadium's famous arch was not part of the original structure, however, and was added during a major refurbishment in the early 1950s

Never relegated, Athletic have been Spanish league champions eight times and won the Spanish Cup on 23 occasions. And all this while resisting the urge to copy Real Madrid and Barcelona by spending millions on their team, preferring instead to raise their own.

The club – which to this day still retains its policy of fielding Basque-only players – received financial help for the new €210m development from Basque Regional Government, and in return community facilities such as an indoor training arena for athletics, a sports science facility and a municipal sports centre can be found among the five basement sections of the complex. There is also office space, bars, retail outlets, a club shop and a club museum.

The ground itself has three tiers; with the lower catering for just over 20,000 fans, the upper holding nearly 30,000, and a thin mezzanine level featuring private boxes and VIP seating. WS

Proud...the club crest

■ Bilbao is one of 100 soccer cities featured in Libero, the digital travel guide for football fans. Regularly refreshed with new destinations, Libero is a one-click treasure trove of football trip tips, tales and trivia. See liberoguide.com

## EATING & DRINKING

The San Mames is surrounded by bars, with the Bar Athletic – which is just off the tram-lined Sabino Arana on Plaza Victor Chavarri – being typical of the genre. Of particular note is the age-old Bar Gol on the corner of Sabino Arana and Lizent Poza, with its photos of goalkeeping trio Ricardo Zamora, Lev Yashin and Jose Angel Iribar, along with Franco-era, title-winning Bilbao teams.

Near the Hotel Estadio, the Bar Mikel is another favourite, while Bar Zubi alongside the Termibus station displays photographs from the cub's history. With a representation of the San Mames over its bar counter, La Catedral occupies a corner of Luis Brinas. This street is where you will also find Campeon, which is the home of the Euskal Lions fan group.

In Bilbao's bar-lined old quarter, the Casco Viejo, don't miss the Pena Athletic del Casco Viejo (the Old Town Supporters' Club), in Pelota Kalea. Recently and tastefully revamped into a stylishly themed restaurant with a bar counter, it features a history of the club around its walls.

Supporters' club bar...the Casco Viejo

## CLUB SHOP/MUSEUM

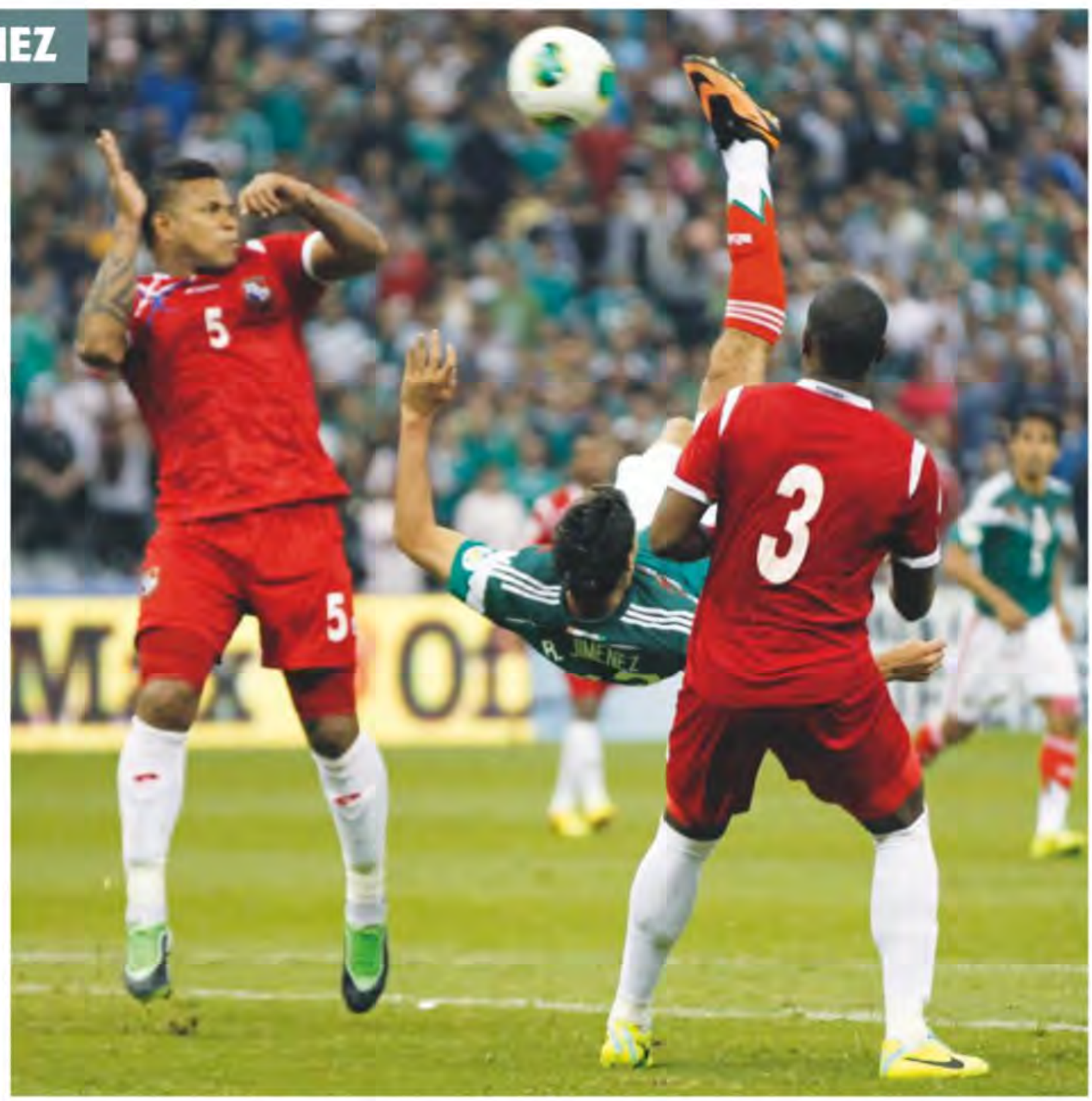
A new store (open Mon-Sat, 10am-2pm, and 4.30pm-8pm on match days) sits between gates 13 and 14, with a downtown outlet at Alameda Rekalde 44 (same non-match day hours), near Plaza Moyua. A club museum has also recently opened.

TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY

# Talentscout

## Raul JIMENEZ

| | |
|---|---|
| **CLUB** | Atletico Madrid (Spa) |
| **COUNTRY** | Mexico |
| **POSITION** | Striker |
| **AGE** | 23 (05.05.91) |
| **PREVIOUS CLUB** | Club America |
| **INTERNATIONAL DEBUT** | January 2013, v Denmark |
| **CAPS** | 26 (4 goals) |
| **HONOURS** | 2014 Spanish Super Cup, 2013 Mexican Clausura, 2012 Olympic Games, 2012 Toulon Tournament |



In October last year, after a dismal qualifying campaign, Mexico were set to miss out on Brazil 2014. With 10 minutes to go in their crucial game against Panama, *El Tri* were being held 1-1 in their once fearsome fortress, the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City. As a last resort, then-coach Victor Manuel Vucetich sent on a 22-year-old substitute with the instruction to "make something happen".

The rest is engraved in Mexican football history. Seconds later, the striker couldn't correctly control a pass outside the box and the ball arced above his head. Without thinking, he attempted a bicycle kick, the kind only a madman or a genius would try. The execution was perfect: hard, low and impossible for the goalkeeper to reach. Mexico were saved and the name of that player, Raul Jimenez, would never be forgotten.

Even if he doesn't do anything else for the rest of his career, Jimenez already has cult status for most Mexican fans. But since that fateful moment, things have been getting better and better.

> "Fortunately, I saw the ball and I threw myself at it. I had to be daring"
>
> Jimenez on his goal against Panama (above right)

He helped Club America to the league title and a runners-up spot in back-to-back tournaments, and scored 18 goals in the 12 months before travelling to the World Cup. He had little playing time in Brazil, but was only denied a late winner against the hosts by Julio Cesar's fine save.

After the World Cup, he stated his desire to play in Europe, but a €6million bid by Porto was deemed too low and he appeared resigned to spending at least another half-season in Mexico.

However, a couple of days later, Club America played a friendly against Atletico Madrid and the Spanish champions' coach, Diego Simeone, was smitten by Jimenez's mix of physical presence and technical finesse. A bid of €11m was accepted and Jimenez was on his way to Europe, where he helped his new team win the Spanish Super Cup against Real Madrid.

Atletico fans were still sceptical as the player was virtually unknown in Europe. Things took a turn for the worse when the Spanish press discovered a series of old tweets stating his passion for arch-rivals Real Madrid, unchaining a flurry of outraged comments on Twitter and Spanish football forums by the most radical wing of the *Colchonero* fans.

But the club have stuck by him, and rightly so. At 6ft 3in, it would be easy to think Jimenez fits the mould of a traditional number nine but, although he can play in that role, his positional awareness and technical abilities allow him to operate as a support striker, in which he thrived at Club America. He is powerful in the air, has a good long-range shot and, from time to time, strokes of genius – as Panama will verify.

Although still a work in progress, with the requirement to make better decisions when in possession and a need to improve his consistency, Simeone has high hopes of his new charge and believes his talent will soon see his past forgotten and the doubters silenced.

*Martin Del Palacio Langer*

# Juan CAZARES

| | |
|---|---|
| **CLUB** | Banfield (Arg, on loan from River Plate, Arg) |
| **COUNTRY** | Ecuador |
| **POSITION** | Attacking midfielder |
| **AGE** | 22 (03.4.92) |
| **PREVIOUS CLUBS** | Independiente Jose Teran, Barcelona (Ecu, on loan) |
| **INTERNATIONAL DEBUT** | September 2014, v Bolivia |
| **CAPS** | 2 (1 goal) |

The first year after the World Cup is always something of a "silly season" for South American national teams, with no competitive fixtures until the Copa America in June next year this time round.

So, over the next few months, teams will concentrate on bedding in new coaches or travelling to make money from lucrative friendlies. Most importantly, though, they blood new players – and in this sense Ecuador have every reason to be happy with their progress.

This September, more important than the results – a 4-0 thrashing of Bolivia and a somewhat harsh 1-0 defeat by Brazil – was the emergence of a new generation, the most outstanding of which was Juan Cazares. In recent times Ecuador's trademark has been their powerful, pacy wing play, but Cazares promises to add something else to the mix with his central-midfield attacking inspiration.

His, however, is a story with a strong Argentinian connection. When he joined Buenos Aires giants River Plate early in his career, Cazares was second choice behind more established names such as veteran midfield anchorman Mathias Almeyda. "I was in the reserves," said Cazares, "but he always spoke to me and we became friends."

In mid 2011, Almeyda suddenly became club coach. Cazares was making good progress through the youth ranks – he was player of the tournament as River won the 2012 Under-20 Libertadores Cup – and came into contention for a first-team place. But when Almeyda was sacked towards the end of the year, the young Ecuadorian dropped down the pecking order.

> "The coach always gives me the confidence to do what I want, to express myself with responsibility"
>
> Cazares on Almeyda

Early in 2013 he was loaned back home to Barcelona of Guayaquil but barely got a game. Then, when Almeyda took charge of Banfield after they were relegated to Argentina's second division, he moved quickly to bring in Cazares on loan. He became a key figure as Banfield won promotion and made a bright start to life in the top flight.

Cazares recognises his debt to Almeyda and says: "The coach always gives me the confidence to do what I want, to express myself with responsibility." And in the opening weeks of the season he looked exactly that; a player full of confidence whose call-up by Ecuador was fully deserved.

He scored with a superbly curled effort from outside the box on his debut against Bolivia, but the most impressive features were his dynamism, speed of movement, thought and execution.

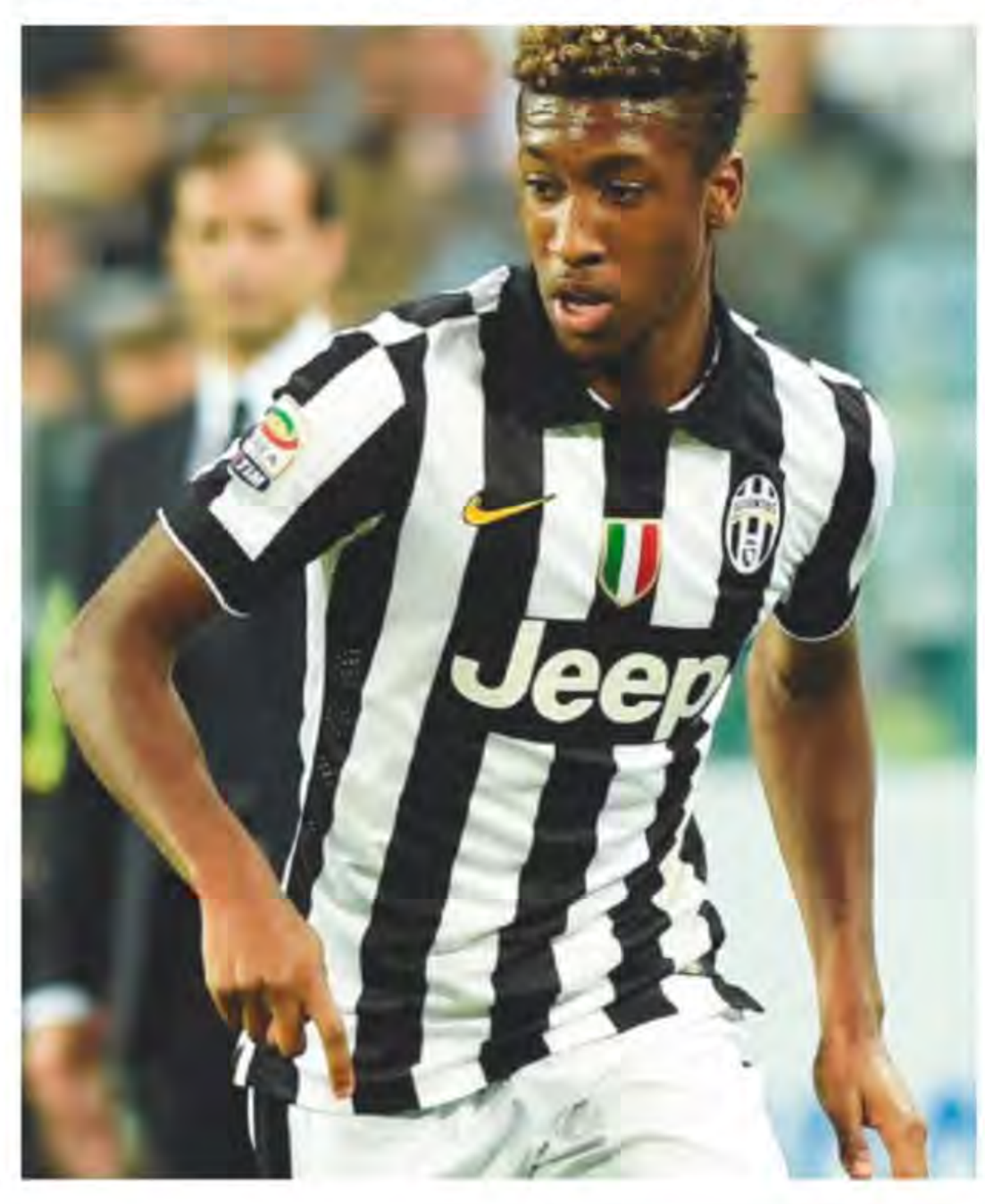
"Almeyda sometimes jokes with me that he is going to be Ecuador coach and that we're going to be world champions," says Cazares.

With Ecuador currently having a caretaker coach, it is even possible Almeyda's prediction – the first part at least – may turn out to be wise words spoken in jest.

*Tim Vickery*

## Kingsley COMAN

| | |
|---|---|
| CLUB | Juventus (Ita) |
| COUNTRY | France |
| POSITION | Attacking midfielder |
| AGE | 18 (13.06.96) |
| PREVIOUS CLUB | Paris Saint-Germain |
| HONOURS | 2013 French Super Cup |




Michel Platini, Zinedine Zidane, Didier Deschamps and David Trezeguet. The list of Frenchmen who have shone at Juventus is a world-class "Who's Who" – and the *Bianconeri* believe they have another of that ilk in the teenager they controversially prised away from Paris Saint-Germain this summer on a free.

On PSG's books since his infant-school days, the Greater Paris-born youngster of Caribbean descent was only 16 years, eight months and four days old when handed his senior debut for the club in February 2013. But increasingly frustrated by the subsequent lack of first-team opportunities – appearing just twice in Ligue 1 last season – he and his advisors finally decided enough was enough, refusing the club's offer of a first professional contract and making tracks across the Alps to Italy. PSG were livid. If they are to ever conform to financial fairplay regulations they need all the locally-sourced players they can muster, let alone one of Coman's huge promise.

With his path to a place in the PSG line-up blocked by the likes of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Edinson Cavani, Ezequiel Lavezzi and Lucas Moura, the France under-21 international thought he had no other alternative but to leave. The Parisian top brass, though, claim he was too hasty.

"Young players can be really impatient," said PSG president Nasser Al Khalaifi. "They want to play straight away. They can't wait. It's a big problem. Zlatan, Thiago Silva, David Luiz and Thiago Motta are great players, but didn't become so just like that. I tried to keep him. The truth is that he wouldn't be a starter with us at the moment. Maybe in two years. But not before.

"I'm not happy with Juventus because they took our player."

It's not the first time Juve have taken advantage of the out-of-contract system to acquire teenage talent at zero cost. Two years ago the Turin outfit snatched Paul Pogba from Manchester United, and if Coman does half as well in Serie A as the latter, no one in the Juventus camp will be complaining.

> "French clubs are more concerned with the age of a player than abroad. In Italy, your ability is more important" Coman

"I knew for sure that Juventus were going to give me a chance in their first team and so was not particularly surprised to be picked for the first game of the season at Chievo," said Coman of his impressive Serie A baptism.

"I didn't have the playing time at PSG and already have more with Juve. I hope to play 15 to 20 games this season. If I play as I can, it shouldn't be a problem."

*Nick Bidwell*

## TALISCA

| | |
|---|---|
| CLUB | Benfica (Por) |
| COUNTRY | Brazil |
| POSITION | Attacking midfielder |
| AGE | 20 (01.02.94) |
| PREVIOUS CLUB | Bahia |
| HONOURS | 2014 Portuguese Super Cup |



The first few weeks of this season undeniably boosted the profile of Benfica's latest Brazilian recruit, whose hat-trick against Vitoria Setubal and surging forward runs earned praise from no less an authority than Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho.

Mourinho recently revealed his admiration for the wiry midfielder in a Portuguese media interview and claimed the Brazilian would already be in the Premier League but for unresolved work-permit issues.

Asked about Mourinho's words of wisdom, Benfica coach Jorge Jesus went on the attack, insisting that English clubs did not even know who Talisca was, stating: "They know as much about him as I do on the subject of D'Artagnan and the Three Musketeers."

> "If he carries on like this, he soon will be worth many millions"
>
> Benfica coach Jorge Jesus on Talisca

To Mourinho, naturally, the last salvo of the polemic, claiming: "I don't like it when professional colleagues doubt my word. Talisca is one of two players we've been scouting for the last couple of years. I'm glad he [Jesus] lives and reads Alexandre Dumas and I admire him for that. I'm not so cultural."

Portuguese sports daily *Record* claims Chelsea's failure to snare Talisca was more about the player's own preferences than administrative red-tape in the UK, believing that he had no wish to become one of Chelsea's legion of talent on loan.

Very much a bargain buy at just €4million, Anderson Souza Conceicao – to give him his full name – is some prospect. He has an excellent left foot, passes the ball with precision and zip, does not go off piste tactically, dribbles well and packs a mean shot.

While he has been principally used by Benfica this term as a second striker, he was very impressive for Bahia in an attacking midfield role, especially adept at running with the ball from deep.

A sort of Yaya Toure without the muscular mass.

*Nick Bidwell*

Keir Radnedge

# THE INSIDER

The expert view on events off the pitch

# Baku's 2020 vision

## UEFA backs Azerbaijan as Euro hosts despite concerns over human rights

**Hosts...Platini (centre) with members of the associations who will stage games in 2020**

The most intriguing of UEFA's selections for the Euro 2020 venues was Baku in Azerbaijan, the "land of fire". It has only been an independent state for just over two decades, after extricating itself from the collapsing Soviet Union, but it is wielding its oil wealth busily in sport as a shortcut to international visibility.

Pride of place in one of the glass cabinets in the offices of the Azeri football federation is a bust of Tofik Bahramov since the "Russian linesman" of 1966 World Cup fame was, in fact, from Azerbaijan.

The main stadium also carries his name, though this is not the venue which will be used to host three group matches and a quarter-final at Euro 2020. A new stadium is close to completion and will make its international sports debut as the main venue for next year's inaugural European Games, a sort of continental mini Olympics.

Another old Azeri hero from the 1966 World Cup was Anatoli Banishevsky, a fine centre-forward in the Soviet team who finished fourth. He scored 19 goals in 51 internationals and was Azeri footballer of the year on three occasions. He died in 1997, aged only 51, after a harrowingly sad last decade of illness and alcoholism.

In the meantime, Azerbaijan has gone from economic strength to strength and made its international-host debut two years ago as the stage for the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, with FIFA president Sepp Blatter happily hailing it as the first world women's tournament to be staged in a Muslim country.

The down side is that Azerbaijan has a gloomy record on human rights and currently sits 160th out of 180 nations in the Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders.

> Baku is the furthest east of the venues and a test of a belief that this is a tournament for cut-price airlines. Visas to enter Azerbaijan cost over £100 for UK citizens

On the western shore of the Caspian Sea, Baku is the furthest east of the Euro 2020 venues and a test for UEFA president Michel Platini's belief that this will be a tournament for cut-price airlines. Visas to enter Azerbaijan come at a cost as well – over £100 for UK citizens.

At least sports minister Azad Rahimov has six years in which to come up with a Russian-style ticket-as-visa solution. Azerbaijan can afford to sponsor Atletico Madrid so it can afford a visa-free Euro.

Wembley Stadium, as expected, will host the two semi-finals and the Final of the pan-European Euro 2020.

The other venues passed largely without controversial comment, although the Football Association of Wales was angry at the Millennium Stadium being overlooked. The other British groups venue is Glasgow's Hampden Park, which landed three group games and one second-round match.

Wembley, of course, secured the glamour package of the two semis and Final after the German federation withdrew Munich in return for an assurance that the Football Association would not be bidding for the entire 2024 finals. The DFB has also offered to support the FA if England bids to host 2028.

The latter appears all the more likely after FA chairman Greg Dyke's insistence that England will not be bidding for the World Cup while Sepp Blatter remains president of FIFA. This, however, appears academic since the earliest possible next European World Cup date is 2030 and even Blatter's infinite reign may not extend until election day in 2022.

## Euro 2020– the venues

- **AZERBAIJAN/BAKU:** three group games, one quarter-final
- **BELGIUM/BRUSSELS:** three group games, one round of 16 game
- **DENMARK/COPENHAGEN:** three group games, one round of 16 game
- **ENGLAND/LONDON (WEMBLEY):** semi-finals and Final
- **GERMANY/MUNICH:** three group games, one quarter-final
- **HOLLAND/AMSTERDAM** – three group games, one round of 16 game
- **HUNGARY/BUDAPEST:** three group games, one round of 16 game
- **ITALY/ROME:** three group games, one quarter-final
- **REP OF IRELAND/DUBLIN:** three group games, one round of 16 game
- **ROMANIA/BUCHAREST:** three group games, one round of 16 game
- **RUSSIA/ST PETERSBURG:** three group games, one quarter-final
- **SCOTLAND/GLASGOW (HAMPDEN):** three group games, one round of 16 game
- **SPAIN/BILBAO:** three group games, one round of 16 game

# 2015 will be FIFA's Big Bang

Big Bang comes to FIFA next spring. March could see a decision on the chaos-threatening winter-switch timing of the 2022 World Cup; April is earmarked for disciplinary decisions over the 2018/2022 bid scandal; and then May brings the presidential election.

As for 2022 timing, formal meetings involving a wide swathe of football bodies began in September under the chairmanship of Sheikh Salman of Bahrain, the Asian confederation president.

The AFC election support he received from Kuwait's powerful Sheikh Ahmad Al Sabah – an ever-louder noise in the Olympic world – means he will steer FIFA away from January/February so as not to clash with the Winter Games. This leaves November/December – the heart of the European season – though anyone with a better idea can still bring it to the table.

Europe's clubs appear to be split.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, chairman of the European Club Association, has developed a fine line in diplomatic waffle over the need for consensus; much less comfortable is his vice-president, Milan's Umberto Gandini, who talks openly as needing a "very persuasive reason" for a calendar upheaval.

Certainly the Qataris, trying hard to keep out of the dispute, want a decision by 2015. This assumes Hans-Joachim Eckert will not deliver such a scathing verdict on the bid scandal that FIFA's ExCo throws the entire issue up in the air.

Here, yet again, the secrecy culture which still pervades FIFA has made the world federation look either silly or downright duplicitous.

The independent ethics system was created in 2012 as the flagship of the reform process led by Basle governance expert Mark Pieth. American lawyer Michael Garcia heads the investigatory chamber (inquiry and prosecution), while Bavarian judge Eckert heads the adjudicatory chamber (passing judgment).

They are not employees of FIFA and both were at great pains recently to insist that Garcia's two-year, 360-page report (with 200,000 evidential pages) had been seen by only four pairs of eyes: their own and those of their deputies.

Not by Blatter. Not by secretary-general Jerome Valcke. Not by any members of the executive committee. Not by any members of the media.

Yet the investigatory process has not been accompanied by the transparency essential. Garcia submitted his report in early September and expectations were raised that Eckert would come back with disciplinary verdicts in October.

Not so. Only in informal conversations at an ethics conference (at FIFA HQ of all places!) did Eckert volunteer a very different scenario.

Garcia's report is merely an initial assessment and confidential because, presumably, publication would lay a lot of people open to legal challenge with accusations of defamation, malice etc.

Hence October is "only" the date on which Eckert and Garcia put their heads together over a formal legal document which would have to be able to withstand scrutiny in the Court of Arbitration for Sport or, ultimately, the Swiss supreme court. Only then can Eckert start to consider disciplinary charges, if any.

**Ethics men...Michael Garcia (left) and Hans-Joachim Eckert**

Anger and frustration in the media and elsewhere is bound to erupt at the length of the process. That would have been unnecessary if either FIFA or the ethics chambers had been open about the timeline in the first place.

Here again, FIFA does not help itself. At the ethics conference, Eckert and Garcia – though officially independent – were shepherded by FIFA media staff.

Their "independence" will remain forever compromised when statements about disciplinary action are issued by FIFA's media office.

This may appear a minor issue, but it is more evidence that in FIFA a culture of conservative reluctance still holds sway.

Garcia, who rarely puts his head above the media parapet – and then usually to block questions – used the conference opportunity to express his concern.

"Why do we have something of a disconnect?" he asked – and answered his own question by describing his previous work in the US public attorneys' department in Manhattan.

Garcia said: "There was very strong public confidence in the work that was done. But I doubt we would have enjoyed that confidence if we could not have announced who had been charged with what, if the only record of the proceedings had been just a name and a sentence.

"If the press release read: 'Joe Smith was sentenced today for 20 years for violating the United States code 1922', there could be little support from a public so little informed.

"So what we need at this point is greater transparency in the process, in the charges, in the decisions, and the basis of the decisions, while continuing to protect the rights of all persons."

Remember that phrase in days, weeks and months ahead: "There could be little support from a public so little informed."

Just 11 words. But they could prove explosively prophetic in their own right when Big Bang hits FIFA next spring.

**No mercy...police haul away an Azerbaijani Muslim protesting outside the US Embassy in Baku**

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# World Service

The ultimate global news & results section

Euro duel...Hungary's Balazs Balogh (left) battles with Corry Evans of Northern Ireland in Budapest

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## World Service

**ANDORRA**

### On target at last

A sixth-minute penalty from Ildefons Lima ended a run of 18 competitive matches without a goal for Andorra and put them ahead in their Euro 2016 qualifier at home to Wales. However, any hopes of a first win in 51 competitive games were killed off by a brace from the visitors' Gareth Bale.

In form...Di Maria (left)

**ARGENTINA**

### Di Maria beats champs

Gerardo Martino got off to a winning start as national coach with a 4-2 victory away to Germany – the side that beat *La Albiceleste* in the World Cup Final less than eight weeks earlier.

Angel Di Maria, who missed the game in Brazil due to injury, scored one and set up three: for Sergio Aguero, Erik Lamela and Federico Fernandez. Andre Schurrle and Mario Gotze, who scored the winner in the Maracana, notched late consolation goals for the world champions.

**AUSTRALIA**

### Asian Final rematch

Next year's Asian Cup hosts will play a friendly game against Japan in Osaka on November 18, in a rerun of the 2011 Final.

**BENIN**

### Under-age ban

The west African country has been suspended from all international age-category competitions for two years after four of its players in a CAF Under-17 qualifier against Mali were found to be overage.

# Internationals

## EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS

### Group A

*Sep 9 - Prague*
**Czech Republic 2** (Dockal 22, Pilar 90+1)
**Holland 1** (De Vrij 55)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 17,946. **Ref:** Rocchi (Ita)
**Czech Republic:** Cech - Kaderabek, Prochazka, M Kadlec, Limbersky, Dockal, Darida, Vacha (Kolar 81), Krejci (Pilar 66), Rosicky, Lafata (Vydra 72).
**Holland:** Cillessen - Janmaat, Veltman (Narsingh 39), De Vrij, Martins Indi, Blind, Wijnaldum, Sneijder, N De Jong, Depay, Van Persie.

*Sep 9 - Reykjavik*
**Iceland 3** (Bodvarsson 19, G Sigurdsson 76, Sigthorsson 77)
**Turkey 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 8,811. **Ref:** Bebek (Cro)
**Iceland:** Halldorsson - T Bjarnason, Arnason, R Sigurdsson, A Skulason, B Bjarnason (R Gislason 70), A Gunnarsson, G Sigurdsson (O Skulason 89), Hallfredsson, Bodvarsson (Kjartansson 90+2), Sigthorsson.
**Turkey:** Onur - Toprak, Mehmet Topal (Calhanoglu 76), Gulum, Gokhan Gonul, Emre Belozoglu, Selcuk Inan (Ozan 65), Caner, Olcan (Mustafa 65), Burak, Arda. *Sent off: Toprak 59.*

*Sep 9 - Astana*
**Kazakhstan 0**
**Latvia 0**
**Att:** 10,200. **Ref:** Kruzliak (Slk)
**Kazakhstan:** Sidelnikov - Miroshnichenko, Vorotnikov, Abdulin, Logvinenko, Shomko, Bogdanov, Nusserbayev (Dzholchiyev 73), Smakov, Khizhnichenko, Islamkhan (Nurgaliyev 82).
**Latvia:** Kolinko - Gabovs, Bulvitis, Gorkss, Maksimenko, Kovalovs, Zjuzins, Lazdins (Fertovs 27), O Laizans, Rudnevs (E Visnakovs 79), Sabala.

**EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Iceland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Czech Rep | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Kazakhstan | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Latvia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Holland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Turkey | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

**2014**
Sep 9 Czech Republic v Holland 2-1
Iceland v Turkey 3-0
Kazakhstan v Latvia 0-0
Oct 10 Holland v Kazakhstan
Latvia v Iceland
Turkey v Czech Republic
Oct 13 Iceland v Holland
Kazakhstan v Czech Republic
Latvia v Turkey
Nov 16 Czech Republic v Iceland
Holland v Latvia
Turkey v Kazakhstan
**2015**
Mar 28 Czech Republic v Latvia
Holland v Turkey
Kazakhstan v Iceland
Jun 12 Iceland v Czech Republic
Kazakhstan v Turkey
Latvia v Holland
Sep 3 Czech Republic v Kazakhstan
Holland v Iceland
Turkey v Latvia
Sep 6 Iceland v Kazakhstan
Latvia v Czech Republic
Turkey v Holland
Oct 10 Czech Republic v Turkey
Iceland v Latvia
Kazakhstan v Holland
Oct 13 Holland v Czech Republic
Latvia v Kazakhstan
Turkey v Iceland

### Group B

*Sep 9 - Andorra La Vella*
**Andorra 1** (Lima pen 6)
**Wales 2** (Bale 22, 81)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 3,100. **Ref:** Vincic (Sln)
**Andorra:** Pol - Rubio, E Garcia, Lima, Maneiro, Ayala (Juli Sanchez 86), Vales, Lorenzo, Peppe (M Vieira 53), C Martinez (Sonejee 83), Riera.
**Wales:** Hennessey - Gunter, Chester, A Williams, B Davies, Bale, King (G Williams 77), Ramsey (Huws 90+4), Allen, N Taylor, Church (Ledley 62).

*Sep 9 - Zenica*
**Bosnia-Herzegovina 1** (Ibisevic 6)
**Cyprus 2** (Christofi 45, 74)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 12,100. **Ref:** Aranovskyi (Ukr)
**Bosnia-Herzegovina:** Begovic - Vrsajevic, Bicakcic, Sunjic, Lulic, Besic, Prcic (I Hajrovic 62), Pjanic, Susic (Medunjanin 62), Ibisevic, Dzeko.
**Cyprus:** Giorgallides - Kyriakou, Merkis, Dossa Junior, Antoniades, Efrem (Alexandrou 71), Nikolaou, Makrides (Sielis 83), Laban, Aloneftis (Charalambides 46), Christofi.

**EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cyprus | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Wales | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Belgium | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Israel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Andorra | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Bosnia-Herz | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |

**2014**
Sep 9 Andorra v Wales 1-2
Bosnia-Herzegovina v Cyprus 1-2
Oct 10 Belgium v Andorra
Cyprus v Israel
Wales v Bosnia-Herzegovina
Oct 13 Andorra v Israel
Bosnia-Herzegovina v Belgium
Wales v Cyprus
Nov 16 Belgium v Wales
Cyprus v Andorra
Israel v Bosnia-Herzegovina
**2015**
Mar 28 Andorra v Bosnia-Herzegovina
Belgium v Cyprus
Israel v Wales
Mar 31 Israel v Belgium
Jun 12 Andorra v Cyprus
Bosnia-Herzegovina v Israel
Wales v Belgium
Sep 3 Belgium v Bosnia-Herzegovina
Cyprus v Wales
Israel v Andorra
Sep 6 Bosnia-Herzegovina v Andorra
Cyprus v Belgium
Wales v Israel
Oct 10 Andorra v Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina v Wales
Israel v Cyprus
Oct 13 Belgium v Israel
Cyprus v Bosnia-Herzegovina
Wales v Andorra

### Group C

*Sep 8 - Luxembourg*
**Luxembourg 1** (Gerson 42)
**Belarus 1** (Dragun 78)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 3,265. **Ref:** Mazeika (Lit)
**Luxembourg:** Joubert - Jans, Schnell, Philipps, Janisch, Holter (Payal 77), Gerson, C Martins, Bensi, Da Mota (Laterza 67), Turpel (Luisi 63).
**Belarus:** Gutor - Shitov, Martynovich, Filipenko, Veretilo (Stasevich 62), Kislyak (Kornilenko 73), Olekhnovich (Aleksievich 77), Krivets, Kalachev, Dragun, Balanovich.

*Sep 8 - Valencia*
**Spain 5** (Sergio Ramos pen 16, Paco Alcacer 17, Busquets 45+3, Silva 50, Pedro 90+1)
**Macedonia 1** (A Ibraimi pen 28)
**HT:** 3-1. **Att:** 18,553. **Ref:** Sidiropoulos (Gre)
**Spain:** Casillas - Juanfran, Sergio Ramos (Bartra 68), Albiol, Jordi Alba, Fabregas, Busquets, Koke (Munir 77), Pedro, Paco Alcacer (Isco 57), Silva.
**Macedonia:** Pacovski - Mojsov, Sikov, Cuculi, Ristovski, Spirovski (Radeski 64), Trajkovski, Alioski (Demiri 46), A Ibraimi, Jahovic, Abdurahimi (K Velkoski 74).

*Sep 8 - Kiev*
**Ukraine 0**
**Slovakia 1** (Mak 17)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 38,454. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)
**Ukraine:** Pyatov - Fedetskyi, Kucher, Rakitskyi, Shevchuk, Stepanenko, Kovalchuk (Bezus 66), Yarmolenko, Edmar, Husiev (Gromov 81), Zozulya.
**Slovakia:** Kozacik - Pekarik, Gyomber, Durica, Hubocan, Pecovsky, Kucka, Mak (Duris 90+2), Hamsik, Weiss (Stoch 67), Nemec (Kiss 63).

**EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spain | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Slovakia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Belarus | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Luxembourg | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ukraine | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Macedonia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

**2014**
Sep 8 Luxembourg v Belarus 1-1
Spain v Macedonia 5-1
Ukraine v Slovakia 0-1
Oct 9 Belarus v Ukraine
Macedonia v Luxembourg
Slovakia v Spain
Oct 12 Belarus v Slovakia
Luxembourg v Spain
Ukraine v Macedonia
Nov 15 Luxembourg v Ukraine
Macedonia v Slovakia
Spain v Belarus
**2015**
Mar 27 Macedonia v Belarus
Slovakia v Luxembourg
Spain v Ukraine
Jun 14 Belarus v Spain
Slovakia v Macedonia
Ukraine v Luxembourg
Sep 5 Luxembourg v Macedonia
Spain v Slovakia
Ukraine v Belarus
Sep 8 Belarus v Luxembourg
Macedonia v Spain
Slovakia v Ukraine
Oct 9 Macedonia v Ukraine
Slovakia v Belarus
Spain v Luxembourg
Oct 12 Belarus v Macedonia
Luxembourg v Slovakia
Ukraine v Spain

### Group D

*Sep 7 - Tbilisi*
**Georgia 1** (Okriashvili 38)
**Republic of Ireland 2** (McGeady 24, 90)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Blom (Hol)
**Georgia:** Loria (Kvaskhvadze 46) - Lobzhanidze, Kverkvelia, Khubutia, Kvirkvelia, Kashia, Daushvili, Okriashvili (Mchedlidze 88), Ananidze (Targamadze 63), Kankava, Gelashvili.
**Rep Ireland:** Forde - Coleman, O'Shea, Wilson, Ward, Walters, Whelan, McCarthy (Meyler 90+1), Quinn (Brady 76), McGeady, Keane (Long 76).

*Sep 7 - Dortmund*
**Germany 2** (Muller 18, 70)
**Scotland 1** (Anya 66)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 60,209. **Ref:** Moen (Nor)
**Germany:** Neuer - Rudy, Boateng, Howedes, Durm, Kramer, Kroos, Muller, Reus (Ginter 90+2), Schurrle (Podolski 84), Gotze.
**Scotland:** Marshall - Hutton, R Martin, Hanley, Whittaker, Bannan (S Fletcher 58), D Fletcher (McArthur 58), Mulgrew, Anya, Morrison, Naismith (Maloney 82). *Sent off: Mulgrew 90+4.*

*Sep 7 - Faro-Loule, Portugal*
**Gibraltar 0**
**Poland 7** (Grosicki 11, 48, R Lewandowski 50, 53, 86, 90+2, Szukala 58)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 1,620. **Ref:** Johannesson (Swe)
**Gibraltar:** J Perez - Wiseman, R Chipolina, Artell (Payas 88), J Chipolina, L Casciaro, Bado (Gosling 46), R Casciaro, Walker, B Perez, K Casciaro (Priestley 63).
**Poland:** Szczesny - Olkowski, Szukala, Glik, Wawrzyniak, Grosicki (Starzynski 78), Krychowiak, Klich (Maczynski 71), Rybus, Milik (Sobota 71), R Lewandowski.

**EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Poland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 3 |
| Germany | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Rep Ireland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Georgia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Scotland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Gibraltar | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 |

**2014**
Sep 7 Georgia v Republic of Ireland 1-2
Germany v Scotland 2-1
Gibraltar v Poland 0-7
Oct 11 Poland v Germany
Republic of Ireland v Gibraltar
Scotland v Georgia
Oct 14 Germany v Republic of Ireland
Gibraltar v Georgia
Poland v Scotland
Nov 14 Georgia v Poland
Germany v Gibraltar
Scotland v Republic of Ireland
**2015**
Mar 29 Georgia v Germany
Republic of Ireland v Poland
Scotland v Gibraltar

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

## Fastest-ever goal

Vedad Ibisevic scored the national team's fastest-ever goal when he put his side ahead in their friendly against Liechtenstein after just 48 seconds.

Former skipper Emir Spahic has reversed his decision to retire from international football. The 34-year-old Bayer Leverkusen defender quit after leading his country at this summer's World Cup but changed his mind after watching Bosnia lose 2-1 at home to Cyprus in their opening Euro 2016 qualifier.

"His departure had left a void at the back," said national coach Safet Susic. "The two young central defenders [Toni Sunjic and Ermin Bicakcic] will perform much better alongside him."

Leader...Neymar (left)

**BRAZIL**

## Dunga's winning start

Neymar celebrated his first game as Brazil captain with the only goal of the game as the *Selecao* beat 10-man Colombia 1-0 in the USA.

In the first game of Dunga's second reign as coach, the 22-year-old wore the armband in the absence of Thiago Silva. Juan Cuadrado saw red in the 49th minute when he brought down Neymar and received a second yellow card. A goal from Willian saw Brazil beat Ecuador 1-0 four days later.

Dunga has named two uncapped defenders – CSKA Moscow's Mario Fernandes and Dodo of Internazionale – for October's two friendly matches, against Argentina and Japan.

---

Jun 13 Gibraltar v Germany
Poland v Georgia
Republic of Ireland v Scotland
Sep 4 Georgia v Scotland
Germany v Poland
Gibraltar v Republic of Ireland
Sep 7 Poland v Gibraltar
Republic of Ireland v Georgia
Scotland v Germany
Oct 8 Georgia v Gibraltar
Republic of Ireland v Germany
Scotland v Poland
Oct 11 Germany v Georgia
Gibraltar v Scotland
Poland v Republic of Ireland

### Group E

*Sep 8 - Tallinn*
**Estonia 1** (Purje 86)
**Slovenia 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 6,561. **Ref:** Marciniak (Pol)
**Estonia:** Pareiko - Teniste (Jaager 71), Morozov, Klavan, Kallaste, Zenjov, Lindpere (Purje 85), Mets, Vunk, Antonov (Kams 67), Anier.
**Slovenia:** S Handanovic - Brecko, Samardzic, Cesar, Struna, Rotman (Lazarevic 89), Stevanovic, Kurtic, Ilicic (Birsa 62), Novakovic, Kampl.
*Sent off: Stevanovic 79.*

*Sep 8 - Serravalle*
**San Marino 0**
**Lithuania 2** (Matulevicius 5, Novikovas 36)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 984. **Ref:** Kovarik (CzR)
**San Marino:** A Simoncini - Bonini (Buscarini 87), F Vitaioli, D Simoncini, Brolli, Battistini, A Gasperoni, Tosi (Cervellini 55), M Vitaioli, Hirsch (Stefanelli 75), Selva.
**Lithuania:** Arlauskis - Freidgeimas, Kijanskas, Zaliukas, Slavickas, Chvedukas, Kalonas, Panka (Vicius 66), Cernych (Kuklys 90), Matulevicius (S Stankevicius 86), Novikovas.

*Sep 8 - Basle*
**Switzerland 0**
**England 2** (Welbeck 58, 90+4)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 35,500. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
**Switzerland:** Sommer - Lichtsteiner, Djourou, Von Bergen, Rodriguez, Behrami, Inler, Xhaka (Dzemaili 74), Shaqiri, Seferovic, Mehmedi (Drmic 64).
**England:** Hart - Stones, Cahill, Jones (Jagielka 77), Baines, Wilshere (Milner 73), Henderson, Delph, Sterling, Welbeck, Rooney (Lambert 90).

**EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP E**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Lithuania | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Estonia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Slovenia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| San Marino | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Switzerland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

**2014**
Sep 8 Estonia v Slovenia 1-0
San Marino v Lithuania 0-2
Switzerland v England 0-2
Oct 9 England v San Marino
Lithuania v Estonia
Slovenia v Switzerland
Oct 12 Estonia v England
Lithuania v Slovenia
Oct 14 San Marino v Switzerland
Nov 15 England v Slovenia
San Marino v Estonia
Switzerland v Lithuania

**2015**
Mar 27 England v Lithuania
Slovenia v San Marino
Switzerland v Estonia
Jun 14 Estonia v San Marino
Lithuania v Switzerland
Slovenia v England
Sep 5 Estonia v Lithuania
San Marino v England
Switzerland v Slovenia
Sep 8 England v Switzerland
Lithuania v San Marino
Slovenia v Estonia
Oct 9 England v Estonia
Slovenia v Lithuania
Switzerland v San Marino
Oct 12 Estonia v Switzerland
Lithuania v England
San Marino v Slovenia

### Group F

*Sep 7 - Torshavn*
**Faroe Islands 1** (Holst 41)
**Finland 3** (Riski 53, 78, R Eremenko 82)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 3,330. **Ref:** Evans (Wal)
**Faroe Islands:** Nielsen - Naes, Faero, Nattestad, V Davidsen, Hansson, Sorensen (Jonsson 76), Benjaminsen, R Jacobsen (Baldvinsson 55), Holst, Klettskard (Edmundsson 46).
**Finland:** Maenpaa - Arkivuo, Moisander, Toivio, Uronen (Markkanen 75), Sparv, P Hetemaj, Riski, R Eremenko, Ring, Pukki (Pohjanpalo 88).

*Sep 7 - Piraeus*
**Greece 0**
**Romania 1** (Marica pen 10)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
*Played behind closed doors*
**Greece:** Karnezis - Torosidis, Papastathopoulos, Manolas, Holebas, Tachtsidis, Mantalos (Christodoulopoulos 65), Samaris (Kone 65), Salpingidis, Mitroglou, Samaras (Diamantakos 46).
**Romania:** Tatarusanu - Tamas, Chiriches, D Grigore, Rat, Pintilii, Hoban (Prepelita 84), Chipciu (Torje 90), Stancu, Maxim (Enache 68), Marica. *Sent off: Marica 53.*

*Sep 7 - Budapest*
**Hungary 1** (Priskin 75)
**Northern Ireland 2** (McGinn 81, K Lafferty 88)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 20,672. **Ref:** Aytekin (Ger)
**Hungary:** Gulacsi - Vanczak, Liptak, Juhasz, Gyurcso (Lovrencsics 58), J Varga, Tozser, Balogh, Rudolf (I Kovacs 70), Nikolic (Priskin 46), Dzsudzsak.
**Northern Ireland:** Carroll - C McLaughlin, McAuley (Cathcart 72), Hughes, Brunt, C Evans, Davis, Norwood (McKay 79), Baird, Ward (McGinn 66), K Lafferty.

**EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP F**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Finland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| N Ireland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Romania | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Hungary | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Greece | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Faroe Islands | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |

**2014**
Sep 7 Faroe Islands v Finland 1-3
Greece v Romania 0-1
Hungary v Northern Ireland 1-2
Oct 11 Finland v Greece
Northern Ireland v Faroe Islands
Romania v Hungary
Oct 14 Faroe Islands v Hungary
Finland v Romania
Greece v Northern Ireland
Nov 14 Greece v Faroe Islands
Hungary v Finland
Romania v Northern Ireland

**2015**
Mar 29 Hungary v Greece
Northern Ireland v Finland
Romania v Faroe Islands
Jun 13 Faroe Islands v Greece
Finland v Hungary
Northern Ireland v Romania
Sep 4 Faroe Islands v Northern Ireland
Greece v Finland
Hungary v Romania
Sep 7 Finland v Faroe Islands
Northern Ireland v Hungary
Romania v Greece
Oct 8 Hungary v Faroe Islands
Northern Ireland v Greece
Romania v Finland
Oct 11 Faroe Islands v Romania
Finland v Northern Ireland
Greece v Hungary

### Group G

*Sep 8 - Vienna*
**Austria 1** (Alaba pen 7)
**Sweden 1** (Zengin 12)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 48,500. **Ref:** Kralovec (CzR)
**Austria:** Almer - Klein, Dragovic, Hinteregger, Fuchs, Harnik (Lazaro 86), Baumgartlinger, Junuzovic (Leitgeb 77), Alaba, Arnautovic, Janko (Okotie 69).
**Sweden:** Isaksson - P Bengtsson, Granqvist, Antonsson, M Olsson, S Larsson, Kallstrom (Wernbloom 85), Ekdal, Durmaz (Elmander 72), Ibrahimovic, Zengin.

*Sep 8 - Podgorica*
**Montenegro 2** (Vucinic 45+2, Tomasevic 73)
**Moldova 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 8,759. **Ref:** Kulbakov (Bls)
**Montenegro:** Poleksic - Savic, Simic, Tomasevic, Volkov (Balic 46), Beciraj (Jovovic 66), Zverotic, Nikolic, V Bozovic, Damjanovic (N Vukcevic 81), Vucinic.
**Moldova:** Cebanu - Racu, Epureanu, Armas, Golovatenco, A Antoniuc (M Antoniuc 54), Ionita, Gheorghiev (Cebotaru 81), Dedov, Sidorenco (Posmac 68), Alexeev.

*Sep 8 - Khimki*
**Russia 4** (M Buchel og 4, Burgmeier og 50, Kombarov pen 54, Dzyuba 65)
**Liechtenstein 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 11,236. **Ref:** Delferiere (Blg)
**Russia:** Akinfeev (Lodygin 72) - Smolnikov, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, Kombarov, Samedov, Glushakov, Dzagoev (Ozdoev 64), Cheryshev, Kokorin, Kerzhakov (Dzyuba 46).
**Liechtenstein:** Jehle - Quintans (Wolfinger 87), Frick, Wieser, Burgmeier, Polverino (Gubser 73), Yildiz, M Buchel, N Hasler, A Christen (Brandle 64), Salanovic.

**EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP G**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Russia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 |
| Montenegro | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Austria | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sweden | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Moldova | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Liechtenstein | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |

**2014**
Sep 8 Austria v Sweden 1-1
Montenegro v Moldova 2-0
Russia v Liechtenstein 4-0
Oct 9 Liechtenstein v Montenegro
Moldova v Austria
Sweden v Russia
Oct 12 Austria v Montenegro
Russia v Moldova
Sweden v Liechtenstein
Nov 15 Austria v Russia
Moldova v Liechtenstein
Montenegro v Sweden

**2015**
Mar 27 Liechtenstein v Austria
Moldova v Sweden
Montenegro v Russia
Jun 14 Liechtenstein v Moldova
Russia v Austria
Sweden v Montenegro
Sep 5 Austria v Moldova
Montenegro v Liechtenstein
Russia v Sweden
Sep 8 Liechtenstein v Russia
Moldova v Montenegro
Sweden v Austria
Oct 9 Liechtenstein v Sweden
Moldova v Russia
Montenegro v Austria
Oct 12 Austria v Liechtenstein
Russia v Montenegro
Sweden v Moldova

### Group H

*Sep 9 - Baku*
**Azerbaijan 1** (Nazarov 54)
**Bulgaria 2** (Mitsanski 14, V Hristov 87)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Yefet (Isr)
**Azerbaijan:** K Agayev - Shukurov, R F Sadygov, B Huseynov, Budak (Nadirov 90), Qarayev, Abishov (Guliyev 74), Nazarov, Aliyev, Javadov (Abdullayev 46), Dadashov.
**Bulgaria:** V Stoyanov - Manolev, Bodurov, A Popov, V Minev, Dyakov, G Iliev (Nedelev 74), G Milanov, Gadzhev, M Aleksandrov (V Hristov 83), Mitsanski (Galabinov 58).

*Sep 9 - Zagreb*
**Croatia 2** (Modric 46, Kramaric 81)
**Malta 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 8,333. **Ref:** Bezborodov (Rus)
**Croatia:** Subasic - Srna, Corluka, Lovren, Milic, Halilovic (Kramaric 67), Rakitic, Kovacic (Jelavic 46), Modric, Brozovic, Mandzukic (Olic 79).
**Malta:** Hogg - Borg, A Agius, R Fenech, Camilleri, P Fenech (Scicluna 87), Z Muscat, R Muscat (Kristensen 76), Failla, Schembri, M Mifsud (Bezzina 33). *Sent off: Borg 31.*

*Sep 9 - Oslo*
**Norway 0**
**Italy 2** (Zaza 16, Bonucci 62)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 26,265. **Ref:** Mazic (Ser)
**Norway:** Nyland - Elabdellaoui, Nordtveit, Forren, Flo, Daehli, Skjelbred (Gamst Pedersen 75), Johansen, Jenssen (Tettey 70), Nielsen (T Elyounoussi 50), King.
**Italy:** Buffon - Ranocchia, Bonucci, Astori, Darmian (Pasqual 61), Florenzi (Poli 87), De Rossi, Giaccherini, De Sciglio, Immobile, Zaza (Destro 83).

**EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP H**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Croatia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Italy | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Bulgaria | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Azerbaijan | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Malta | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Norway | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

New skipper...Rooney

**CAMEROON**

### Nations Cup hosts

CAF has announced that the 2019 African Nations Cup finals will be held in Cameroon. The 2021 tournament goes to Ivory Coast while Guinea will be the hosts in 2023.

**ENGLAND**

### Rooney spot on

Wayne Rooney scored from the penalty spot in his first game as permanent captain of his country as England beat Norway 1-0 in a friendly at Wembley.

The 28-year-old striker has now overtaken Michael Owen and is fourth in England's all-time list of goalscorers with 41 – just eight behind record-holder Bobby Charlton.

Arsenal's Calum Chambers and Fabian Delph of Aston Villa made their debuts in the game.

**GAMBIA**

### Hope for end of ban

The west African country hopes to have its two-year suspension from international football lifted after former sports minister Modou Lamin Kabba Bajo was appointed president of

**40,181** fans who watched Norway at Wembley – the lowest crowd for an England international since it reopened

**2014**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 9 | Azerbaijan v Bulgaria | 1-2 |
| | Croatia v Malta | 2-0 |
| | Norway v Italy | 0-2 |
| Oct 10 | Bulgaria v Croatia | |
| | Italy v Azerbaijan | |
| | Malta v Norway | |
| Oct 13 | Croatia v Azerbaijan | |
| | Malta v Italy | |
| | Norway v Bulgaria | |
| Nov 16 | Azerbaijan v Norway | |
| | Bulgaria v Malta | |
| | Italy v Croatia | |

**2015**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mar 28 | Azerbaijan v Malta |
| | Bulgaria v Italy |
| | Croatia v Norway |
| Jun 12 | Croatia v Italy |
| | Malta v Bulgaria |
| | Norway v Azerbaijan |
| Sep 3 | Azerbaijan v Croatia |
| | Bulgaria v Norway |
| | Italy v Malta |
| Sep 6 | Italy v Bulgaria |
| | Malta v Azerbaijan |
| | Norway v Croatia |
| Oct 10 | Azerbaijan v Italy |
| | Croatia v Bulgaria |
| | Norway v Malta |
| Oct 13 | Bulgaria v Azerbaijan |
| | Italy v Norway |
| | Malta v Croatia |

**Group I**

*Sep 7 - Copenhagen*
**Denmark 2** (Hojbjerg 65, Kahlenberg 80)
**Armenia 1** (Mkhitaryan 50)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 20,141. **Ref:** Tudor (Rom)
**Denmark:** Schmeichel - P Ankersen, Kjaer (Okore 57), Bjelland, Boilesen, Kvist (Kahlenberg 74), Hojbjerg, Schone (Vibe 57), Eriksen, Krohn-Dehli, Bendtner.
**Armenia:** Berezovsky - Hovhannisyan, Haroyan, Arzumanyan (Voskanyan 66), Mkoyan, Hayrapetyan, Hovsepyan, Mkhitaryan (Pizzelli 71), Artur Yedigaryan, Manucharyan (Dashyan 84), Ghazaryan.

*Sep 7 - Aveiro*
**Portugal 0**
**Albania 1** (Balaj 52)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 23,205. **Ref:** Buquet (Fra)
**Portugal:** Rui Patricio - Joao Pereira, Pepe, Ricardo Costa (Miguel Veloso 73), Fabio Coentrao, Joao Moutinho, William Carvalho (Ricardo Horta 56), Andre Gomes, Vieirinha (Ivan Cavaleiro 46), Eder, Nani.
**Albania:** Berisha - Hysaj, Cana, Mavraj, Agolli, Roshi, Xhaka, Kukeli (Kace 66), Abrashi, Lenjani (Lila 75), Balaj (Cikalleshi 82).

**EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP I**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denmark | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Albania | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Serbia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Armenia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Portugal | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

**2014**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 7 | Denmark v Armenia | 2-1 |
| | Portugal v Albania | 0-1 |
| Oct 11 | Albania v Denmark | |
| | Armenia v Serbia | |
| Oct 14 | Denmark v Portugal | |
| | Serbia v Albania | |
| Nov 14 | Portugal v Armenia | |
| | Serbia v Denmark | |

**2015**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mar 29 | Albania v Armenia |
| | Portugal v Serbia |
| Jun 13 | Armenia v Portugal |
| | Denmark v Serbia |
| Sep 4 | Denmark v Albania |
| | Serbia v Armenia |
| Sep 7 | Albania v Portugal |
| | Armenia v Denmark |
| Oct 8 | Albania v Serbia |
| | Portugal v Denmark |
| Oct 11 | Armenia v Albania |
| | Serbia v Portugal |

*Top 2 in each group and the 3rd-placed team with the best record[1] will qualify directly for the finals; the other 3rd-placed teams will be paired in 4 head-to-head, 2-leg ties, the winners of which will also qualify for the 24-team finals. Hosts France qualify automatically*
*[1]Determined by results against the teams finishing 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th in the respective groups*

## 2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS

**Group A**

*Sep 5 - Omdurman*
**Sudan 0**
**South Africa 3** (Vilakazi 55, 62, Ndulula 79)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Charef (Alg)
**South Africa:** Meyiwa - Ngcongca, Hlatshwayo, Matholo, Matlaba, Jali, Furman, Masango (Manyisa 68), Dolly (Zwane 46), Rantie (Vilakazi 53), Ndulula.

*Sep 6 - Calabar*
**Nigeria 2** (Ambrose 13, Salami 89)
**Congo 3** (Oniangue 16, Bifouma 40, pen 53)
**HT:** 1-2. **Ref:** Lamptey (Gha)
**Nigeria:** Ejide - Ambrose, Omeruo, Oboabona, Echiejile, Onazi, Mikel, Musa, Azeez (Igiebor 50), Oduamadi, (Salami 74) Nwofor (Emenike 50).

*Sep 10 - Pointe-Noire*
**Congo 2** (Dore 4, Oniangue 90+1)
**Sudan 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Ragab (Lby)

*Sep 10 - Cape Town*
**South Africa 0**
**Nigeria 0**
**Ref:** Bondo (Bot)
**South Africa:** Meyiwa - Ngcongca, Hlatshwayo, Mathoho, Matlaba, Jali, Furman, Masango (Zwane 82), Manyisa, Vilakazi, Ndulula (Rantie 46).
**Nigeria:** Ejide - Ambrose, Omeruo, Oboabona, Echiejile, Onazi, Mikel, Musa, Igiebor (Aluko 71), Salami (Osaguona 63), Emenike.

**2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Congo | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| South Africa | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Nigeria | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Sudan | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

**Group B**

*Sep 6 - Addis Abeba*
**Ethiopia 1** (S Saladin pen 90+5)
**Algeria 2** (Soudani 35, Brahimi 84)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Camille (Sey)
**Algeria:** M'Bolhi - Mandi, Belkalem, Medjani, Mesbah, Lacen, Taider (Guedioura 90+1), Feghouli, Brahimi, Soudani (Mahrez 76), Slimani (Belfodil 68).

*Sep 7 - Bamako*
**Mali 2** (Sako 52, Diabate 90+2)
**Malawi 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Amao (Nga)
*Sent off: Samassa (Mali) 63*

*Sep 10 - Blida*
**Algeria 1** (Medjani 83)
**Mali 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Alioum (Cam)
*Sent off: Ndiaye (Mali) 69*
**Algeria:** M'Bolhi - Mandi, Belkalem, Medjani, Mesbah, Lacen (Guedioura 59), Taider (Bentaleb 54), Feghouli, Brahimi, Mahrez, Slimani (Belfodil 78).

*Sep 10 - Blantyre*
**Malawi 3** (Nyondo 18, 66, F Banda 62)
**Ethiopia 2** (Kebede 44, Saleh 90+2)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** El Fadil (Sud)

**2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Algeria | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Mali | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Malawi | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Ethiopia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 |

**Group C**

*Sep 6 - Ouagadougou*
**Burkina Faso 2** (Pitroipa 11, Alain Traore 49)
**Lesotho 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Munyemana (Rwa)
*Sent off: Lerotholi (Lesotho) 78*

*Sep 6 - Libreville*
**Gabon 1** (Mbingui 45+2)
**Angola 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Keita (Mli)

*Sep 10 - Luanda*
**Angola 0**
**Burkina Faso 3** (Bance 43, Pitroipa 49, 57)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Gomes (SAf)

*Sep 10 - Maseru*
**Lesotho 1** (Lekhanya 60)
**Gabon 1** (Madinda 80)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Nampiandraza (Mad)
*Sent off: Kuenane (Lesotho) 37*

**2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Burkina Faso | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| Gabon | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Lesotho | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Angola | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 |

**Group D**

*Sep 6 - Lubumbashi*
**DR Congo 0**
**Cameroon 2** (N'Jie 45+3, Aboubakar 82)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Otogo-Castane (Gab)
**Cameroon:** Ondoa - Guihoata (Djeugoue 88), N'Koulou, Mbia, Oyongo, Enoh, Mandjeck (Loe 73), N'Jie, Choupo-Moting, Moukandjo (Kweuke 79), Aboubakar.

*Sep 6 - Abidjan*
**Ivory Coast 2** (Doumbia 63, Gervinho 68)
**Sierra Leone 1** (K Kamara 43)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Zio (BuF)
**Ivory Coast:** Barry - Aurier, Dja Djedje (Bamba 60), Kessie, Boka, Tiote, Y Toure, Gradel, Kalou (Doumbia 46), Gervinho, Bony (Die 88).

*Sep 10 - Yaounde*
**Cameroon 4** (N'Jie 15, 54, Aboubakar 38, 76)
**Ivory Coast 1** (Y Toure 25)
**HT:** 2-1. **Ref:** Seechurn (Mrs)
**Cameroon:** Ondoa - Guihoata, N'Koulou, Mbia, Oyongo, Enoh, Mandjeck, N'Jie (Salli 83), Choupo-Moting (Kweuke 53), Moukandjo (Kom 74), Aboubakar.
**Ivory Coast:** Barry - Aurier (Dja Djedje 59), L Kone, Bamba, Boka, Tiote, Akpa Akpro (Doumbia 58), Gradel (Assale 79), Y Toure, Gervinho, Bony.

*Sep 10 - Lubumbashi, DR Congo[1]*
**Sierra Leone 0**
**DR Congo 2** (Mubele 51, Bokila 88)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Essrayri (Tun)
*[1]The game, treated as a Sierra Leone home fixture, was moved to DR Congo because of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone*

**2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cameroon | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| DR Congo | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Ivory Coast | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Sierra Leone | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 |

**Group E**

*Sep 5 - Casablanca, Morocco*
**Guinea 2** (S Soumah pen 10, Idrissa Sylla 45)
**Togo 1** (J Ayite 58)
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Jiyed (Mor)
*Sent off: Issiaga Sylla (Guinea) 60*

*Sep 6 - Kumasi*
**Ghana 1** (A Ayew pen 50)
**Uganda 1** (Mawejje 45)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Kordi (Tun)
**Ghana:** Dauda - Afful, Boye, Jonathan Mensah, Schlupp, Rabiu (Acquah 68), K Asamoah, A Ayew, Atsu (Wakaso 68), Waris (J Ayew 72), Gyan.

*Sep 10 - Lome*
**Togo 2** (F Ayite 11, Adebayor 76)
**Ghana 3** (Gyan 23, Agyemang-Badu 34, Atsu 85)
**HT:** 1-2. **Ref:** Benouza (Alg)
**Ghana:** Adams - Afful, Akaminko, Jonathan Mensah, Rahman, Agyemang-Badu (Wakaso 83), K Asamoah, A Ayew (Rabiu 64), Atsu (Gyimah 87), J Ayew, Gyan.

*Sep 10 - Kampala*
**Uganda 2** (Massa 21, 43)
**Guinea 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Bamlak (Eth)

**2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP E**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Uganda | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Ghana | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Guinea | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Togo | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 |

**Group F**

*Sep 6 - Niamey*
**Niger 1** (Maazou 34)
**Cape Verde Islands 3** (Garry 3, Odair Fortes 14, Ze Luis 24)
**HT:** 1-3. **Ref:** Grisha (Egy)

*Sep 6 - Ndola*
**Zambia 0**
**Mozambique 0**
**Ref:** Nkurunziza (Bdi)

the Gambia Football Association. FIFA sacked the previous administration and imposed a ban after players' ages had been deliberately falsified.

HUNGARY

### Dardai interim boss

Former international midfielder Pal Dardai has been placed in temporary charge of the national team until the end of the year.

The 38-year-old, who takes over from Attila Pinter, becomes the country's youngest national coach since Mihaly Pataki in 1930.

Dardai won 61 caps for his country but played most of his club football in Germany, where he was Hertha Berlin's record appearance holder in the Bundesliga with a total of 286 games.

Winners...Myanmar (in red)

MYANMAR

### Peace Cup gold

Soe Min Oo scored against the Philippines in extra time as Myanmar claimed the Philippine Peace Cup title courtesy with a 3-2 victory in the Final.

Kyaw Ko Ko put former Singapore coach Radojko Avramovic's side ahead before the Philippines replied through Daisuke Sato, with his first international goal, and Phil Younghusband, who scored from the penalty spot.

But the host nation was denied a third successive success in the competition as Min Min Thu equalised in stoppage time before Soe's winner.

Palestine took third place with a 7-3 victory over Chinese Taipei in extra time.

*Sep 10 - Praia*
**Cape Verde Islands 2** (Ze Luis 32, Mendes da Graca 77)
**Zambia 1** (J Mulenga 56)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Diedhiou (Sen)

*Sep 10 - Maputo*
**Mozambique 1** (Domingues pen 5)
**Niger 1** (Cisse 25)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Wiish (Som)

| 2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP F | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cape Verde | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Mozambique | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Zambia | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Niger | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |

**Group G**

*Sep 5 - Dakar*
**Senegal 2** (M B Diouf 17, S Mane 45+1)
**Egypt 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Coulibaly (Mli)
**Senegal:** Coundoul - Badji, L Sane, Mbodji, Djilobodji, Souare, Kouyate (A N'Diaye 87), Gueye, D N'Doye (Sow 79), S Mane, M B Diouf (Diame 68).
**Egypt:** Ekramy - Elmohamady (Emam 60), Ghazal, Said, El Said, Fathy, El Neny, Ghaly, Hamoudi (Gamal 46), M Salah, Kamar (A Hassan 81).

*Sep 6 - Monastir*
**Tunisia 2** (Khazri 74, Chikhaoui pen 90)
**Botswana 1** (Mogorosi 44)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Lemghaifry (Mta)
**Tunisia:** Ben Mustapha - Mathlouthi, S Ben Youssef, Mohsni, Maaloul, Ragued, Sassi, Chikhaoui, Msakni (Allagui 68), Khazri (Chermiti 85), Younes (F Ben Youssef 78).

*Sep 10 - Gaborone*
**Botswana 0**
**Senegal 2** (S Mane 33, D N'Doye 84)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Sikazwe (Zam)
**Senegal:** Coundoul - Badji, L Sane, Mbodji, Djilobodji, Souare, Kouyate, Gueye, D N'Doye, S Mane (Konate 88), M B Diouf (A N'Diaye 77).

*Sep 10 - Cairo*
**Egypt 0**
**Tunisia 1** (F Ben Youssef 14)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Gassama (Gam)
**Egypt:** Ekramy - Fathy, Ghazal, Said, Abdel Shafy, Emam, El Neny (Shikabala 71), Ghaly (Abd Rabo 37), M Salah, Gamal, Kamar (A Hassan 57).
**Tunisia:** Ben Mustapha - Bedoui, S Ben Youssef, Mohsni, Maaloul, Ragued, Sassi, Chikhaoui, Msakni (Khelifa 69), Khazri (Nater 87), F Ben Youssef.

| 2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP G | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Senegal | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Tunisia | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Botswana | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Egypt | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

**Remaining matchdays:**
*Oct 10/11, Oct 15, Nov 14/15, Nov 19*

*The top 2 in each group and the 3rd-placed team with the best record will qualify for the finals; hosts Morocco qualify automatically*

## CENTROAMERICANA CUP

*Played in the United States*

**Group A**

*Sep 3 - Washington DC*
**Honduras 2** (James og 35, Smith og 37)
**Belize 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 20,516. **Ref:** Vasquez (DoR)

*Sep 3 - Washington DC*
**El Salvador 1** (R Burgos 69)
**Guatemala 2** (Pappa 26, 64)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 20,516. **Ref:** Marrufo (USA)

*Sep 7 - Dallas*
**Guatemala 2** (Ruiz 26, Avila 51)
**Belize 1** (McCaulay 80)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20,156. **Ref:** Moreno (Pan)

*Sep 7 - Dallas*
**Honduras 0**
**El Salvador 1** (Menjivar 67)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 20,156. **Ref:** Solis (CR)

*Sep 10 - Houston*
**El Salvador 2** (R Burgos 48, Alvarez 69)
**Belize 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 19,287. **Ref:** Vasquez (DoR)

*Sep 10 - Houston*
**Honduras 0**
**Guatemala 2** (Pappa 37, 80)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 19,287. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)

| CENTROAMERICANA CUP – GROUP A | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guatemala | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| El Salvador | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Honduras | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Belize | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 |

**Group B**

*Sep 3 - Washington DC*
**Costa Rica 3** (Borges pen 39, Urena 49, Venegas 86)
**Nicaragua 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20,516. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Hnd)

*Sep 7 - Dallas*
**Costa Rica 2** (Venegas 81, Borges pen 87)
**Panama 2** (Perez 51, Nurse 71)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 20,156. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)

*Sep 10 - Houston*
**Panama 2** (Perez 81, R Torres 82)
**Nicaragua 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 19,287. **Ref:** Lopez (Gtm)

| CENTROAMERICANA CUP – GROUP B | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Costa Rica | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| Panama | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Nicaragua | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

*The group winners qualified for the Final, the runners-up for the 3rd-place match and the teams finishing 3rd for the 5th-place match*

### 5th-place match

*Sep 13 - Los Angeles*
**Honduras 1** (Lozano 45+1)
**Nicaragua 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 41,969. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
**Honduras:** Hernandez - Figueroa (Montes 75), Portillo, Acosta, Crisanto, Fuentes, Rodriguez, Norales, Martinez (Rochez 45), Lozano, C Mejia (Reyes 54).
**Nicaragua:** Lorente - Quijano, Parrales (Cadena 61), Solorzano (Martinez 74), Casco, Figueroa, Copete, Rosas, Mejia, Dolmo (Barrera 51), Pavon.

### 3rd-place match

*Sep 13 - Los Angeles*
**El Salvador 0**
**Panama 1** (R Torres 5)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 41,969. **Ref:** Marrufo (USA)
**El Salvador:** Hernandez - Molina, Mendoza (Pineda 46), Ceren (Santamaria 81), Menjivar, Monterrosa (Aguila 67), Flores, Renderos, Larin, Alvarez, R Burgos.
**Panama:** Penedo - Chen, Machado, R Torres, Rodriguez, Gomez, Cooper, Quintero (Davis 87), Escobar (Cummings 79), Nurse, G Torres (Pinzon 51). *Sent off: Cooper 76.*

### Final

*Sep 13 - Los Angeles*
**Guatemala 1** (Ruiz pen 25)
**Costa Rica 2** (Ruiz 29, Bustos 56)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 41,969. **Ref:** Moreno (Pan)
**Guatemala:** Jerez - Vasquez, Morales (Arreola 67), Lalin, Gallardo (Herrarte 90+1), Marquez, Contreras, Trujillo (Miranda 84), Pappa, Avila, Ruiz.
**Costa Rica:** Pemberton - Salazar, Acosta, Miller, Myrie, Alonso, Cubero, Bustos (Granados 85), Venegas (Lopez 81), Ramirez (Moya 90+1), Ruiz.

● *Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama and El Salvador qualify for the 2015 Gold Cup finals*

## CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS

### 1st round

**Group 3**

*Played in Martinique*
Sep 3: Barbados 1 Surinam 1; Martinique 6 Bonaire 0.
Sep 5: Bonaire 3 Surinam 2; Martinique 3 Barbados 2.
Sep 7: Bonaire 1 Barbados 4; Martinique 0 Surinam 0.

| CARIBBEAN CUP QUALS – 1ST RND: GP 3 – FINAL | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Martinique (Q) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| Barbados (Q) | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| Bonaire | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 3 |
| Surinam | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |

**Group 4**

*Played in Puerto Rico*
Sep 3: French Guiana 1 Grenada 1; Puerto Rico 2 Curacao 2.
Sep 5: Curacao 2 Grenada 1; Puerto Rico 1 French Guiana 2.
Sep 7: Curacao 0 French Guiana 0; Puerto Rico 2 Grenada 2.

| CARIBBEAN CUP QUALS – 1ST RND: GP 4 – FINAL | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Curacao (Q) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Fr Guiana (Q) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Puerto Rico | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| Grenada | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 |

**Group 5**

*Played in Antigua & Barbuda*
Sep 3: Dominican Republic 0 St Vincent & The Grenadines 1; Antigua & Barbuda 6 Anguilla 0.
Sep 5: Anguilla 0 St Vincent & The Grenadines 4; Antigua & Barbuda 2 Dominican Republic 1.
Sep 7: Anguilla 0 Dominican Republic 10; Antigua & Barbuda 2 St Vincent & The Grenadines 1.

| CARIBBEAN CUP QUALS – 1ST RND: GP 5 – FINAL | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Antigua & B (Q) | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 9 |
| St V'nt & G (Q) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| Dom'can R (Q) | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 3 | 3 |
| Anguilla | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 20 | 0 |

**Group 6**

*Played in St Kitts & Nevis*
Sep 3: Dominica 0 Guyana 0; St Kitts & Nevis 0 St Lucia 0.
Sep 5: St Lucia 2 Guyana 0; St Kitts & Nevis 5 Dominica 0.
Sep 7: Dominica 1 St Lucia 2; St Kitts & Nevis 2 Guyana 0.

| CARIBBEAN CUP QUALS – 1ST RND: GP 6 – FINAL | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St Kitts & N (Q) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| St Lucia (Q) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| Guyana | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Dominica | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 1 |

*The top 2 in each group and the 3rd-placed team with the best record (Dominican Republic) qualified for the 2nd round, to which Guadeloupe, Haiti and Trinidad & Tobago received byes*

● *The 4 1st-round groups were numbered 3, 4, 5 and 6 because the 2 groups in the preliminary round were numbered 1 and 2*

## PHILIPPINE PEACE CUP

*Played in Manila, Philippines*

### Semi-finals

*Sep 3*
**Myanmar 4** (Kyaw Zayar Win 26, 49, Tin Win Aung 38, Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit 71)
**Palestine 1** (Maher 87)
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Supresencia (Phi)

*Sep 3*
**Philippines 5** (Gier 25, J Younghusband 37, Chen Yi-wei og 65, Hartmann 74, 88)
**Taiwan 1** (Yen Ho-shen 80)
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Thong (Cam)

### 3rd-place match

*Sep 6*
**Palestine 7** (Cohene 5, Maher 9, 107, 112, 117, Abuhabib 90+2, Bahdari 109)
**Taiwan 3** (Wu Pai-ho pen 53, Yen Ho-shen 76, Lin Chang-lun 87)
*Aet.* **HT:** 2-0. **90mins:** 3-3. **Ref:** Al Katiri (Ins)

### Final

*Sep 6*
**Myanmar 3** (Kyaw Ko Ko 8, Min Min Thu 90+2, Soe Min Oo 103)
**Philippines 2** (Sato 50, P Younghusband pen 71)
*Aet.* **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 2-2. **Ref:** Phonsanit (Lao)

# World Service

**NORTH KOREA**

## Under-16s triumph

Goals from Han Kwang-song and Choe Song-hyok saw North Korea come from behind to beat South Korea 2-1 in the Final of the Asian Under-16 Championship.

The two finalists, along with Australia and Syria, booked their places in next year's Under-17 World Cup, which will be held in Chile.

One hundred caps...Santa Cruz

**PARAGUAY**

## Santa Cruz centenary

Roque Santa Cruz won his 100th cap as he captained his country in a goalless draw against the United Arab Emirates in Austria.

The 33-year-old Malaga striker, who has competed in three World Cups, is Paraguay's all-time leading scorer with 29 goals.

Nacional's Argentinian goalkeeper Ignacio Don could be following Santa Cruz into the national side after receiving official naturalisation.

"I know there are good goalkeepers in Paraguay. I am now one more Paraguayan," said the 32-year-old who has lived in Paraguay for the past nine years. "I'll keep trying to do the best for my club. Then we will see."

**PERU**

## Guerrero joint third

Paolo Guerrero joined former Newcastle United midfielder Nolberto Solano as the country's third-top scorer in internationals with 20 goals after scoring in Peru's 2-0 win over Qatar.

The Corinthians striker, who scored the second of two late goals in the friendly in Doha, has now scored six

## FRIENDLIES

**Sunday, August 24**

*Aug 24 - Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni*
**French Guiana 0**
**Surinam 1** (Talea 9)
**HT:** 0-1

**Tuesday, August 26**

*Aug 26 - Victoria*
**Seychelles 1** (Waye-Hive 30)
**Sri Lanka 2** (Zarwan 53, Rifnas 75)
**HT:** 1-0

**Wednesday, August 27**

*Aug 27 - Stavanger*
**Norway 0**
**United Arab Emirates 0**
**Att:** 7,611. **Ref:** Kristoffersen (Den)
**Norway:** Jarstein - Linnes, Hagen, Forren, Flo (Grogaard 58), De Lanlay (Grindheim 15; Danielsen 74), Samuelsen (Gamst Pedersen 46), Odegaard, M Elyounoussi, Pedersen (Brustad 66), Gulbrandsen (Ulvestad 46).

**Thursday, August 28**

*Aug 28 - Victoria*
**Seychelles 3** (Waye-Hive 27, 77, Henriette 64)
**Sri Lanka 0**
**HT:** 1-0

**Saturday, August 30**

*Aug 30 - Aswan*
**Egypt 1** (Gamal 56)
**Kenya 0**
**HT:** 0-0
**Egypt:** El Hadary (El Shenawy) - Emam, Said, El Said, Rahil, Abdel Khalek (Gamal), Zakaria (Gaber), Abd Rabo, M Hassan (Fathy), El Agizi (Ghaly), Kamar.

*Aug 30 - San Salvador*
**El Salvador 2** (Larin 25, Ceren 47)
**Dominican Republic 0**
**HT:** 1-0

**Sunday, August 31**

*Aug 31 - Lusaka*
**Zambia 3** (Munthali 15, Singuluma 36, M Mulenga 90+4)
**Sudan 1** (Babeker pen 90+2)
**HT:** 2-0

**Tuesday, September 2**

*Sep 2 - Niamey*
**Niger 2** (Kamilou Daouda 10, Koudize 18)
**Uganda 0**
**HT:** 2-0
*Sent off: Mwesigwa (Uganda) 89*

**Wednesday, September 3**

*Sep 3 - Prague*
**Czech Republic 0**
**United States 1** (Bedoya 39)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 12,673. **Ref:** Vad (Hun)
**Czech Republic:** Cech - Kaderabek (Reznik 46), Prochazka, M Kadlec, Limbersky, Darida (Dockal 79), Jiracek (Vacha 46), Rosicky, Pilar (Petrzela 46), Krejci (Pudil 69), Vydra (Kolar 46).
**United States:** Guzan (Rimando 46) - F Johnson, Orozco (Ream 46), Brooks, Chandler (Garza 63), Bedoya (Hyndman 67), Corona (Shea 63), Diskerud (Morales 63), Gyau, Altidore, Green.

*Sep 3 - Odense*
**Denmark 1** (Agger pen 35)
**Turkey 2** (Sahan 55, Ozan 90+2)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 13,164. **Ref:** Mazic (Ser)
**Denmark:** Schmeichel - P Ankersen (Wass 84), Agger (Andreasen 46), Boilesen (Knudsen 46), Kvist, Eriksen (Kusk 46), Bjelland, Schone, Kahlenberg (Vibe 64), Hojbjerg, Bendtner (Cornelius 64).
**Turkey:** Onur - Ozyakup (Emre Belozoglu 46), Gokhan Gonul, Caner (Ismail 89), Toprak, Gulum, Ahmet (Olcan 46), Selcuk Inan (Ozan 76), Sahan (Arda 68), Mehmet Topal, Burak (Mustafa 71).

*Sep 3 - London*
**England 1** (Rooney pen 68)
**Norway 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 40,181. **Ref:** Sousa (Por)
**England:** Hart - Stones (Chambers 81), Jones, Cahill (Jagielka 84), Baines, Oxlade-Chamberlain (Milner 70), Henderson, Wilshere (Delph 70), Sterling, Rooney (Welbeck 70), Sturridge (Lambert 89).
**Norway:** Nyland - Elabdellaoui, Nordtveit, Forren, Linnes (Flo 36), Daehli (Konradsen 57), Skjelbred (M Elyounoussi 70), Johansen, Jenssen (Gamst Pedersen 88), T Elyounoussi (Kamara 78), King (Nielsen 76).

*Sep 3 - Dusseldorf*
**Germany 2** (Schurrle 52, Gotze 78)
**Argentina 4** (Aguero 21, Lamela 40, F Fernandez 47, Di Maria 50)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 51,132. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
**Germany:** Neuer (Weidenfeller 46) - Grosskreutz, Howedes (Rudiger 77), Ginter, Durm, Kramer, Kroos (Rudy 71), Schurrle (Gotze 57), Reus, Draxler (Podolski 34), Gomez (Muller 57).
**Argentina:** Romero (Andujar 80) - Zabaleta (Campagnaro 77), F Fernandez, Demichelis, Rojo, Mascherano, Perez (A Fernandez 46), Biglia, Di Maria (Alvarez 85), Aguero (Gaitan 83), Lamela (Gago 68).

*Sep 3 - Riga*
**Latvia 2** (Sabala 16, 74)
**Armenia 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 4,215. **Ref:** Mazeika (Lit)
**Latvia:** Kolinko - Gabovs (Timofejevs 71), Bulvitis, Gorkss, Maksimenko (Jagodinskis 46), O Laizans (Fertovs 46), Lazdins, Zjuzins (Rugins 75), Kovalovs, Sabala (Zigajevs 85), Rudnevs (E Visnakovs 46).
**Armenia:** Berezovsky - Haroyan, T Voskanyan (Sarkisov 68), Artur Yedigaryan (Mkrtchyan 75), Hovsepyan (Pizzelli 81), Ghazaryan (Aslanyan 84), Hovhannisyan, Mkoyan, Mkhitaryan, Hayrapetyan (Hambardzumyan 71), Manucharyan (Badoyan 63).

*Sep 3 - Matrei, Austria*
**Lithuania 1** (Matulevicius 42)
**United Arab Emirates 1** (Sanqour 90+3)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 200
**Lithuania:** Cerniauskas - Slavickas, Freidgeimas, Kijanskas, Valtkunas, Novikovas (Vicius 46), Chvedukas (Mikoliunas 46), Panka (Zulpa 59), Cernych (Valskis 46), Kalonas (Kuklys 84), Matulevicius (S Stankevicius 66).

*Sep 3 - Casablanca*
**Morocco 0**
**Qatar 0**

*Sep 3 - Dublin*
**Republic of Ireland 2** (Doyle 20, Pearce 82)
**Oman 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 14,376. **Ref:** Spathos (Gre)
**Rep Ireland:** Given (Elliot 46) - Meyler (Murphy 85), Keogh, Pearce, Ward, Pilkington (McGeady 59), Quinn, Gibson (Whelan 70), Brady, Hoolahan (Keane 59), Doyle (Long 59).
**Oman:** Al Habsi - A Al Mukhaini, Al Owaisi, Al Musalami, S Al Mukhaini, Al Muhaijri (Al Jabri 60), Al Farsi (Al Muqbali 81), Mudhafar (Al Busaidi 60), Saleh (Al Mashari 87), Hardan (Al Qasmi 60), Al Siyabi (Al Hadri 76).

*Sep 3 - Khimki*
**Russia 4** (Kerzhakov 6, 12, Ignashevich 41, Granat 81)
**Azerbaijan 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)
**Russia:** Akinfeev (Lodygin 46) - Smolnikov, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich (Granat 46), Kombarov (Parshivlyuk 71), Glushakov, Poloz (Samedov 76), Dzagoev, Shatov (Ozdoev 46), Cheryshev (Ionov 81), Kerzhakov.
**Azerbaijan:** K Agayev - B Huseynov (Qarayev 46), R F Sadygov, Ramaldanov, Qirtimov (Amirguliyev 46), Abishov (Shukurov 71), Amircanov, Dadashov (Javadov 46), Ozkara (C Huseynov 57), Nadirov (Abdullayev 78), Nazarov.

*Sep 3 - Kiev*
**Ukraine 1** (Bezus 63)
**Moldova 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Kovacs (Rom)
**Ukraine:** Pyatov - Rakitskyi, Fedetskyi, Shevchuk (Makarenko 46), Kucher, Stepanenko, Edmar (Hromov 46), Husiev (Morozyuk 75), Tymoshchuk (Kovalchuk 26), Zozulya (Hladkyi 64), Yarmolenko (Bezus 46).
**Moldova:** Cebanu (Namasco 82) - Racu (Vremea 84), Posmac, Golovatenco, Armas, Gheorghiev (Cebotaru 66), A Antoniuc (M Antoniuc 66), Epureanu, Ionita, Dedov (Alexeev 79), Sidorenco (Calincov 90+1).

**Thursday, September 4**

*Sep 4 - Borisov*
**Belarus 6** (Stasevich pen 7, Kornilenko 55, Krivets 59, Olekhnovich 60, Kislyak 62, Aleksievich 75)
**Tajikistan 1** (Fatkhulloev 34)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 2,400
**Belarus:** Chernik - Shitov, Martynovich, Politevich, Bordachev (Polyakov 59), Tigorev (Olekhnovich 18), Kislyak, Kalachev (Krivets 46), A Hleb (Balanovich 46), Stasevich (Aleksievich 46), Kornilenko (Dragun 71).
**Tajikistan:** Tuychiev - Ulmasov, Suvonkulov, D Ergashev, Asrorov, Davronov, Makhmudov (Rajabov 63), Vasiev (R Dzhalilov 76), Fatkhulloev (Nazarov 70), D Dzhalilov (J Ergashev 78), Tokhirov (Khamrakulov 71). *Sent off: Ulmasov 5.*

*Sep 4 - Liege*
**Belgium 2** (Mertens 19, Witsel 78)
**Australia 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 16,850. **Ref:** Oliver (Eng)
**Belgium:** Courtois - Alderweireld, Lombaerts (Ciman 78), Kompany, Vertonghen (G Gillet 88), Witsel, De Bruyne, Mirallas (Januzaj 62), Mertens (Chadli 62), Defour (Nainggolan 62), Origi (Dembele 80).
**Australia:** Ryan - Herd (Brillante 45), Sainsbury, Wilkinson, Davidson, Jedinak, Milligan (Valeri 87), Cahill (Smith 72), Leckie (Juric 87), Bresciano (Luongo 61), Oar (Halloran 61).

*Sep 4 - Tuzla*
**Bosnia-Herzegovina 3** (Ibisevic 1, 13, Dzeko 24)
**Liechtenstein 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Grujic (Ser)
**Bosnia-Herzegovina:** Begovic (Fejzic 62) - Vranjes, Sunjic, Mujdza (Bicakcic 46), Salihovic, Prcic, Besic (Zakaric 69), Medunjanin (Cimirot 69), Ibisevic, Pjanic (I Hajrovic 46), Dzeko (Visca 62).
**Liechtenstein:** Jehle (B Buchel 46) - Burgmeier, Frick, Kaufmann (Yildiz 31), Quintans (Kuhne 65), Wieser, M Buchel (Gubser 74), A Christen (Wolfinger 82), Erne (Salanovic 62), N Hasler, Polverino.

*Sep 4 - Anshan*
**China 3** (Yang Xu 53, Yu Hanchao 64, Wu Lei 90)
**Kuwait 1** (Ebrahim 45+2)
**HT:** 0-1

*Sep 4 - Pula*
**Croatia 2** (Mandzukic 18, 58)
**Cyprus 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Guida (Ita)
**Croatia:** Subasic - Strinic, Lovren, Corluka (Vida 69), Srna (Jedvaj 78), Modric (Cop 61), Brozovic, Kovacic (Pjaca 78), Halilovic (Olic 69), Kramaric, Mandzukic (Pasalic 61).
**Cyprus:** Giorgallides (Kissas 46) - Mertakkas, Makris, Alexandrou (Aloneftis 70), Sielis, Artymatas (Kyriakou 46), Charalambous, Angeli, Charalambides (Makrides 61), Aresti (Nikolaou 50), Efrem (Christofi 53).

*Sep 4 - Paris*
**France 1** (Remy 73)
**Spain 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Bieri (Swi)
**France:** Lloris - Debuchy, Varane, Sakho, Evra (Digne 68), Pogba, Matuidi (Cabaye 68), Sissoko (Schneiderlin 78), Valbuena (Cabella 74), Griezmann (Remy 58), Benzema.
**Spain:** De Gea - Carvajal, San Jose, Sergio Ramos, Azpilicueta, Koke, Busquets (Iturraspe 46), Fabregas (Pedro 68), Raul Garcia (Silva 58), Diego Costa (Paco Alcacer 68), Cazorla (Isco 78).

*Sep 4 - Dubai, UAE*
**Iraq 0**
**Peru 2** (Callens 18, Zambrano 26)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Hashmi (UAE)
**Peru:** Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano, Callens, Yotun (Trauco 46), Ascues (Hinostroza 32), Ballon, Cruzado (Velarde 62), Deza (Chavez 54), Guerrero (Ubierna 66), Carrillo (Requena 81). *Sent off: Zambrano 90.*

*Sep 4 - Bari*
**Italy 2** (Immobile 3, De Rossi pen 10)
**Holland 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Karasev (Rus)
**Italy:** Sirigu - Ranocchia, Bonucci, Astori, Darmian (Candreva 73), Marchisio (Verratti 63), De Rossi (Parolo 67), Giaccherini, De Sciglio (Pasqual 67), Immobile (Giovinco 77), Zaza (Destro 73).
**Holland:** Cillessen - Janmaat (Van der Wiel 73), De Vrij, Martins Indi, Blind, Wijnaldum (Fer 86), N De Jong (Pieters 63), Sneijder, Lens (Veltman 12), Van Persie (Narsingh 81), Kuyt. *Sent off: Martins Indi 9.*

*Sep 4 - Zilina*
**Slovakia 1** (Nemec 43)
**Malta 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 3,509. **Ref:** Zelinka (CzR)
**Slovakia:** Kozacik - Pekarik, Gyomber, Durica, Hubocan (Breznanik 73), Pecovsky, Kiss (Guede 85), Weiss (Sestak 61), Hamsik (Duris 73), Stoch (Mak 61), Nemec (Sylvestr 62).
**Malta:** Hogg - Borg (Bezzina 66), A Agius (Z Muscat 46), Camilleri, Caruana, R Fenech (Kristensen 63), R Muscat, P Fenech (Scicluna 87), Failla (Herrera 82), Schembri (Cohen 78), M Mifsud.

*Sep 4 - Stockholm*
**Sweden 2** (Ibrahimovic 3, 24)
**Estonia 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 15,421. **Ref:** Jakobsson (Ice)
**Sweden:** Nordfeldt - Antonsson, P Bengtsson, M Olsson (M Johansson 76), Granqvist, Bahoui (Zengin 64), Forsberg (Hrgota 46), S Larsson, Ekdal (Toivonen 46), Kallstrom (Durmaz 64), Ibrahimovic (Hysen 64).
**Estonia:** Pareiko - Teniste (Jaager 46), Morozov, Klavan, Kallaste, Mets, Zenjov (Kams 65), Lindpere (Saag 73), Vunk (Purje 65), Antonov (Dimitrijev 90+1), Anier (Ojamaa 46).

*Sep 4 - Tashkent*
**Uzbekistan 2** (Sergeev 57, Juraev 90)
**Jordan 0**
**HT:** 0-0

less than Teofilo Cubillas. Teodoro Fernandez is second with 24 goals.

POLAND

### One short of record

Robert Lewandowski scored four times as Poland beat Gibraltar 7-0 to record their biggest-ever competitive away win.

Lewandowski fell one short of the most goals

Four goals...Lewandowski

scored in a Euro qualifier, with Malcolm Macdonald (England), Tibor Nyilasi (Hungary) and Marco Van Basten (Holland) each scoring five in a game.

RUSSIA

### New national best

Zenit's 31-year-old striker Aleksandr Kerzhakov scored twice in the 2018 World Cup host's 4-0 friendly

Record breaker...Kerzhakov

victory against Azerbaijan to become Russia's all-time record holder with 28 goals.

SWEDEN

### Fifty in 100 for Ibra

Zlatan Ibrahimovic set a new national record as his two goals in the 2-0 friendly win against Estonia took him to 50 overall for his country. He won his 100th cap in his next game, against Austria.

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**Friday, September 5**

*Sep 5 - Miami, USA*
**Brazil 1** (Neymar 83)
**Colombia 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 73,479. **Ref:** Gantar (Can)
**Brazil:** Jefferson - Maicon, Miranda, David Luiz (Marquinhos 80), Filipe Luis, Luiz Gustavo (Fernandinho 46), Ramires (Elias 46), Oscar (Philippe Coutinho 72), Willian (Everton Ribeiro 72), Diego Tardelli (Robinho 77), Neymar.
**Colombia:** Ospina - Zuniga (Mejia 73), C Zapata, Valdes, Armero, Ramirez (S Arias 46), Sanchez (Ramos 85), Cuadrado, Martinez (Guarin 65), Rodriguez (Falcao 77), Gutierrez (Bacca 65).
*Sent off: Cuadrado 49.*

*Sep 5 - Sapporo*
**Japan 0**
**Uruguay 2** (Cavani 34, Hernandez 71)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 39,294. **Ref:** Kim (SKo)
**Japan:** Kawashima - H Sakai (G Sakai 86), Yoshida, Morishige (Morioka 89), Nagatomo, T Sakai, Hosogai, Okazaki, Honda, Tanaka (Kakitani 76), Minagawa (Muto 58).
**Uruguay:** Muslera - M Pereira (Aguirregaray 76), Gimenez, Godin, Caceres (Mayada 84), Corujo (A Gonzalez 69), Arevalo, Lodeiro, C Rodriguez (A Pereira 73), Rolan (Hernandez 65), Cavani (Stuani 58).

*Sep 5 - Astana*
**Kazakhstan 7** (Khizhnichenko 27, 43, Nusserbayev 36, Islamkhan 55, Dzholchiyev 70, Konysbayev 81, Nurgaliyev 87)
**Kyrgyzstan 1** (Zhyrgalbek Uulu 72)
**HT:** 3-0. **Ref:** Tsynkevich (Bls)
**Kazakhstan:** Sidelnikov (Mokin 46) - Vorotnikov, Abdulin, Smakov (Darabayev 78), Islamkhan (Nurgaliyev 64), Miroshnichenko, Nusserbayev (Konysbayev 46), Shomko, Bogdanov, Khizhnichenko (Dzholchiyev 58), Logvinenko.

*Sep 5 - Bucheon*
**South Korea 3** (Lee Myung-joo 33, Lee Dong-gook 53, 64)
**Venezuela 1** (M Rondon 21)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 34,456. **Ref:** Vo Minh Tri (Vie)
**South Korea:** Kim Jin-hyeon - Kim Young-gwon, Kim Ju-young (Lim Chae-min 64), Cha Du-ri, Ki Sung-yueng (Park Jong-woo 74), Lee Myung-joo, Kim Min-woo (Kim Chang-soo 81), Son Heung-min, Lee Chung-yong (Han Kyo-won 87), Lee Dong-gook (Lee Keun-ho 78), Cho Young-cheol (Han Kook-young 46).
**Venezuela:** D Hernandez - Rosales, Cichero, Vizcarrondo, Perozo, Rincon, Jimenez (Seijas 62), Guerra, M Rondon (Fedor 69), S Rondon (A Gonzalez 74), Martinez (Falcon 56).
*Sent off: S Rondon 86 (from the bench).*

**Saturday, September 6**

*Sep 6 - Fort Lauderdale, USA*
**Bolivia 0**
**Ecuador 4** (Noboa 9, Cazares 34, E Valencia 65, Sornoza 84)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Register (Jam)
**Bolivia:** Quinonez - Eguino, Raldes, Melean, M Bejarano, Ballivian (Ramallo 46), Azogue (D Bejarano 46), J Chavez (Chumacero 76), Castro (Cardozo 63), Mojica (Maygua 46), Saucedo (D Chavez 46).
**Ecuador:** Banguera - Paredes, Canga, Erazo, W Ayovi (Ramirez 86), Ibarra (Plata 69), Castillo (Gruezo 71), Noboa, Cazares, Martinez (Rojas 8; Sornoza 77), E Valencia (Angulo 76).

*Sep 6 - Santa Clara, USA*
**Chile 0**
**Mexico 0**
**Att:** 67,175. **Ref:** Guzman (USA)
**Chile:** Bravo - Silva, Medel, Jara, Isla, Diaz, Mena (Albornoz 56), Millar, Vidal, Aranguiz (Pinilla 71), Sanchez (Delgado 85).
**Mexico:** Ochoa - Aguilar, Alanis, Rodriguez (Ayala 46), M Herrera, Ponce (Layun 65), H Herrera (Aquino 74), Vazquez (Rios 70), Guardado (Fabian 80), G Dos Santos (Orozco 66), Peralta.

*Sep 6 - Singapore*
**Singapore 2** (Suhaimi 17, Nawaz 24)
**Papua New Guinea 1** (Gunemba 61)
**HT:** 2-0

*Sep 6 - Haiphong*
**Vietnam 3** (Nguyen Hai Anh 3, 48, Le Cong Vinh 66)
**Hong Kong 1** (Lam Ka-wai pen 58)
**HT:** 1-0

**Sunday, September 7**

*Sep 7 - Bujumbura*
**Burundi 2** (Ntibazonkiza 1, Ndikumana 24)
**Tanzania 0**
**HT:** 2-0

*Sep 7 - Pristina*
**Kosovo 1** (I Bunjaku pen 85)
**Oman 0**
**HT:** 0-0

*Sep 7 - Marrakech*
**Morocco 3** (Belhanda pen 41, Barrada 54, Iajour 87)
**Libya 0**
**HT:** 1-0
**Morocco:** Bounou - Aberhoune, El Hachimi, Oulhaj, Jbira (Bergdich 83), Obbadi, Dirar (Iajour 77), Amrabat (El Gnaoui 64), Belhanda, Barrada (El Ahmadi 71), Chahechouhe.

*Sep 7 - Villach, Austria*
**Paraguay 0**
**United Arab Emirates 0**
**Ref:** Lechner (Aut)
**Paraguay:** J Silva - Alonso, Gomez (L Caceres 88), Aguilar, Moreira, Ortigoza (Torales 74), Romero (Paniagua 61), Sanabria (Gonzalez 58), V Caceres (Benitez 68), Rojas (Mendieta 82), Santa Cruz.

*Sep 7 - Belgrade*
**Serbia 1** (Kolarov 80)
**France 1** (Pogba 13)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
**Serbia:** Stojkovic - Ivanovic, S Mitrovic, Nastasic, Kolarov, Gudelj (Kuzmanovic 61), Matic, Z Tosic, Tadic (Djuricic 61), L Markovic (Ljajic 86), Djordjevic (A Mitrovic 75).
**France:** Lloris - Sagna, Varane, Mathieu, Digne, Pogba (Matuidi 74), Cabaye, Schneiderlin, Sissoko (Valbuena 82), Remy (Benzema 61), Cabella (Lacazette 61).

**Monday, September 8**

*Sep 8 - London*
**Saudi Arabia 2** (H Fallatah pen 71, Al Jassim 84)
**Australia 3** (Cahill 3, Jedinak 6, Wright 77)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 3,677. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
**Saudi Arabia:** Abdullah - H Fallatah, Osama Hawsawi, Al Marshadi, Al Harbi (Al Zori 55), Al Shahrani, Rashid (Asiri 84), Khariri (Ghaleb 66), Al Faraj (Al Shehri 72), Al Jassim, Al Shamrani (Mukhtar Fallatah 55).
**Australia:** Langerak - Herd (Valeri 59), Wilkinson (Sainsbury 6), Wright, Davidson (Smith 59), Brillante, Jedinak (Milligan 59), Luongo (Bresciano 78), Leckie, Oar, Cahill (Juric 69).

*Sep 8 - Goyang*
**South Korea 0**
**Uruguay 1** (Gimenez 70)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Sato (Jap)
**South Korea:** Lee Bum-young - Kim Chang-soo, Kim Young-gwon, Kim Ju-young, Cha Du-ri (Lee Yong 79), Ki Sung-yueng, Lee Chung-yong, Park Jong-woo (Han Kook-young 75), Son Heung-min, Lee Myeong-ju (Nam Tae-hee 60), Lee Dong-gook (Lee Keun-ho 71).
**Uruguay:** Silva - M Pereira (Aguirregaray 90+4), Gimenez, Godin, Caceres, Mayada (Corujo 90+1), Arevalo, Lodeiro (De Arrascaeta 62), C Rodriguez (A Pereira 24), Cavani (Stuani 57), Hernandez (Rolan 78).

*Sep 8 - Tashkent*
**Uzbekistan 3** (Akhmedov 41, 58, Djeparov 78)
**New Zealand 1** (Brockie 86)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 8,000
**Uzbekistan:** Nesterov - Mullajanov, Denisov (Mustafoev 82), Ismailov, Mukhammadiev (Yuldashov 88), Haydarov, Djeparov (Sayfiev 82), Akhmedov (Shodiev 82), Tursunov (Rashidov 64), Kapadze, Tadjiev (Alimov 46).
**New Zealand:** Moss - Reid, Tuiloma (Howieson 81), Boyd (Payne 64), McGlinchey, James (Brockie 64), Roux, Barbarouses (Stevens 81), Wood, Durante, Doyle.

**Tuesday, September 9**

*Sep 9 - Denver, USA*
**Bolivia 0**
**Mexico 1** (Layun 18)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 18,136. **Ref:** Penso (USA)
**Bolivia:** Daniel Vaca - Eguino, Maygua (Ovando 77), M Bejarano, Raldes, D Chavez (Ballivian 46), D Bejarano (Miranda 46), Melean (Chumacero 46), J Chavez, Saucedo (Ramallo 46), Cardozo (Mojica 46). *Sent off: Ballivian 89.*
**Mexico:** Munoz - Pizarro (Aguilar 78), Mier, Ayala (Alanis 84), Venegas, Layun, Fabian (Guardado 67), Rios (Ponce 83), Aquino (H Herrera 74), Torres, Orozco (Peralta 61).

*Sep 9 - East Rutherford, USA*
**Brazil 1** (Willian 31)
**Ecuador 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 35,975. **Ref:** Jurisevic (USA)
**Brazil:** Jefferson - Danilo (Gil 90), Miranda, Marquinhos, Filipe Luis, Luiz Gustavo (Fernandinho 74), Ramires (Elias 69), Willian (Ricardo Goulart 46), Oscar (Everton Ribeiro 46), Neymar, Diego Tardelli (Philippe Coutinho 67).
**Ecuador:** Dominguez - Paredes, Canga, Erazo, W Ayovi, Castillo, Noboa, Ibarra (Martinez 83), Cazares (Angulo 67), E Valencia, Sornoza (Rojas 46).

*Sep 9 - Toronto*
**Canada 3** (Edgar 31, De Jong 68, Ricketts 73)
**Jamaica 1** (Lawrence 30)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 12,162. **Ref:** Guzman (USA)
**Canada:** Borjan - Hainault (Jakovic 46), Henry, Edgar, De Guzman (Straith 72), Bernier (Bekker 46), Hutchinson, De Jong (Ouimette 88), Nakajima-Farran (Jackson 56), Ricketts, Edwini-Bonsu (De Rosario 85).
**Jamaica:** Blake - Edwards (Finlayson 73), Morgan, Nosworthy, Powell (Simpson 69), Lawrence, E Taylor, Watson, Dawkins, Anderson (Loza 46), D Brown (Holness 79).

*Sep 9 - Fort Lauderdale, USA*
**Chile 1** (Delgado 20)
**Haiti 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Moncada (Hnd)
**Chile:** Herrera - Isla, Medel, Rojas, Albornoz, Diaz (Martinez 66), Millar (Rodriguez 66), Aranguiz, Delgado (Beausejour 66), Sanchez (Fuenzalida 86), Orellana (Vargas 56).
**Haiti:** Placide - Goreux, Lafrance, Bertin, Jaggy, Mustivar (Pierre 87), Jerome (Marcelin 78), Jean-Francois (Tourier 46), Belfort (Germain 73), Ambroise (Millien 44), W Guerrier (Maurice 65).

*Sep 9 - Harbin*
**China 1** (Gao Lin pen 39)
**Jordan 1** (Hayel 83)
**HT:** 1-0

*Sep 9 - Sleman*
**Indonesia 0**
**Yemen 0**

*Sep 9 - Yokohama*
**Japan 2** (Muto 51, Shibasaki 66)
**Venezuela 2** (M Rondon pen 58, Cichero 71)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 64,007. **Ref:** Beath (Aus)
**Japan:** Kawashima - G Sakai, Mizumoto, Yoshida, Nagatomo, Hosogai (Tanaka 75), Morishige, Shibasaki, Honda, Osako (Okazaki 46), Kakitani (Muto 46).
**Venezuela:** Hernandez - A Gonzalez, Vizcarrondo, Perozo, Cichero, Guerra (Fedor 66), Rosales, Rincon, Seijas (Signorelli 76), S Rondon (Martinez 80), M Rondon (Falcon 89).

*Sep 9 - Al Farwaniyah*
**Kuwait 0**
**Bahrain 1** (Aaish 15)
**HT:** 0-1

*Sep 9 - Doha*
**Qatar 0**
**Peru 2** (Callens 85, Guerrero 89)
**HT:** 0-0
**Peru:** Forsyth - Advincula (Requena 90+2), Riojas (Aparicio 67), Callens, Yotun, Ballon, Velarde (Hinostroza 77), Deza (Cedron 46), Cruzado (Ubierna 86), Carrillo (Chavez 77), Guerrero.

*Sep 9 - Singapore*
**Singapore 0**
**Hong Kong 0**

**Wednesday, September 10**

*Sep 10 - Windhoek*
**Namibia 1** (Hotto 55)
**Swaziland 1** (Badenhorst 85)
**HT:** 0-0
*Sent off: Kaimbi (Namibia) 68*

**Sunday, September 14**

*Sep 14 - Surabaya*
**Indonesia 2** (Muslim Ahmad og 64, Samsul 88)
**Malaysia 0**
**HT:** 0-0

**Saturday, September 20**

*Sep 20 - Shah Alam*
**Malaysia 4** (Kalang Tie 8, 65, Daravorn og 15, Bakhtiar 82)
**Cambodia 1** (Chamraksmey 80)
**HT:** 2-0

**Sunday, September 21**

*Sep 21 - Road Town*
**British Virgin Islands 0**
**St Vincent & The Grenadines 6** (M Samuel x2, Johnson, E George, Edwards, S Samuel)
**HT:** 0-4

**KEY TO TABLES**
(Q) = qualified for next stage

# EURO 2016 QUALIFYING GROUP STAGE

Heading for a fall...Czech Republic's David Lafata gets the better of Nigel De Jong, whose Holland side finished third at the World Cup this summer

## Opening games bring upsets

Any suggestion that the expansion of Euro 2016 to 24 finalists would make qualifying easier for the larger nations was dispelled by the results in the first round of matches.

Portugal provided the biggest upset, losing at home to Albania, a result that cost coach Paulo Bento his job (see *Dispatches*, page 37). There were also defeats for World Cup finalists Bosnia-Herzegovina (to Cyprus), Greece (to Romania) and Holland (to Czech Republic), while Iceland continued their strong form from the 2014 World Cup qualifiers by beating Turkey 3-0.

Portugal, without the injured Cristiano Ronaldo, enjoyed the greater possession against Albania but could not convert their chances and were hit by Bekim Bajal's spectacular volley early in the second half. The visitors' coach, Gianni De Biasi, hailed victory as "a historic result" while captain Lorik Cana added: "It's a perfect start for us. We defended until the end with great spirit. We have a lot of young players and I hope we can keep on like this. We're in a tough group."

Elsewhere in Group I, Denmark opened with a 2-1 win over Armenia in Copenhagen. Armenia, playing without a regular centre-forward, took the lead in the second half through Henrikh Mkhitaryan, but the Danes equalised thanks to Bayern Munich teenager Pierre Hojbjerg, whose first international goal made him Denmark's youngest scorer in a competitive fixture. Substitute Thomas Kahlenberg scored the Danes' late winner.

Iceland are top of Group A after their win over Turkey in Reykjavik. A mistake by Turkey goalkeeper Onur Kivrak allowed Jon Dadi Bodvarsson to head Iceland into a deserved 18th-minute lead. Turkey defender Omer Toprak was sent off in the 59th minute, having picked up two yellow cards in five minutes, and Gylfi Sigurdsson and Kolbeinn Sigthorsson scored two quick-fire goals to round off the win. Ajax striker Sigthorsson described his team's performance as "perfect".

Elsewhere in the group, Czech Republic celebrated a late victory over Holland in Prague after a mistake from Daryl Janmaat allowed Vaclav Pilar to tap the winner into an empty net. Holland coach Guus Hiddink, back for his second spell in charge of the national side, was left fuming. "In the final seconds of a match you should never ever lose," said Hiddink, who had started with the 3-5-2 formation favoured by his predecessor Louis Van Gaal, but switched to 4-3-3 after Borek Dockal smashed a left-footed shot into the net from just outside the area to give the home side a deserved lead.

Holland, who were missing a number of key players through injury, including Arjen Robben, equalised through a Stefan De Vrij header in the 55th minute before Janmaat's late error.

In Group B, Bosnia's surprise home defeat by Cyprus increased the pressure on their coach Safet Susic, who had recently agreed a contract extension.

Following the retirements of key figures Zvjezdan Misimovic and Emir Spahic, Susic started with the inexperienced midfielder Sanjin Prcic. Bosnia made a promising start when Vedad Ibisevic headed in unmarked from a corner after six minutes. Cyprus had failed to score in their previous nine matches, but striker Demetris Christofi beat Asmir Begovic to head home the equaliser just before half-time. Cyprus then defended resolutely and took their chance on the counter-attack in the 72nd minute when Marios Nicolaou set up Christofi to score his second goal. It proved to be the winner after Cyprus goalkeeper Antonis

Georgallides saved Miralem Pjanic's 88th minute penalty. Cyprus held on to record their first away win since a 1-0 victory over San Marino in August 2007.

"I want to say sorry to the team and the fans," said Pjanic. "I took the penalty, I didn't score and I take the responsibility for the defeat. I can't explain why we played so badly."

The Welsh FA was charged by UEFA following a pitch invasion during a 2-1 victory in Andorra. The hosts, who had six players booked, had taken a shock early lead and enjoyed the better of a game played on a poor plastic pitch. Gareth Bale came to Wales' rescue with two late goals, the second of which sparked a pitch invasion by visiting fans.

The win put Wales in a strong early position in the group. Belgium's game in Israel was postponed because of the security situation in the Middle East.

Spain got off to a strong start in Group C with a 5-1 win over Macedonia in Valencia (see *Dispatches*, page 30), while Ukraine's home loss to Slovakia has opened up the rest of the group.

Ukraine were without the injured Yevhen Konoplyanka and Ruslan Rotan, and missed a number of chances to equalise after Robert Mak had given Slovakia an early lead in Kiev from a pass from Marek Hamsik. In the final minute, Ukraine keeper Andriy Pyatov scored from a corner but his effort was ruled out for a foul on his opposite number, Matus Kozacik.

In Group D, Scotland gave a strong performance against world champions Germany in Dortmund but narrowly lost 2-1, with Thomas Muller scoring both German goals – his 24th and 25th at international level – before being sent-off late in the game for pulling back Scotland's Steven Naismith.

Republic of Ireland looked to be heading for a point in Georgia before Aiden McGeady scored a brilliant late winner. Poland boosted their goal difference with a 7-0 thrashing of Gibraltar, who were playing their first competitive match.

Winner...Northern Ireland's Lafferty

> "We gave it away so stupidly. When I talk about it now I get extremely angry again"
> Coach Guus Hiddink on Holland's late loss to Czech Republic

England got their most difficult game of Group E out of the way with a confident 2-0 win over Switzerland in Basle. New Arsenal signing Danny Welbeck scored both goals against a Swiss side still finding its feet under new coach Vladimir Petkovic.

Estonia substitute Ats Purje produced a dramatic 86th-minute winner to beat 10-man Slovenia, while Lithuania scored twice in the first half for a comfortable win in San Marino.

In Group F, Greece lost at home to Romania in a repeat of last year's World Cup play-off. Romania captain Ciprian Marica scored the only goal of the game – a penalty in the 10th minute – but was then sent-off early in the second half after receiving a second yellow card for a foul on Andreas Samaris. "We deserved the draw," said Greece's new coach Claudio Ranieri.

Goals from Niall McGinn and Kyle Lafferty gave Northern Ireland a dramatic win in Hungary. The home side looked to have secured the points through Tamas Priskin's 75th-minute strike but Lafferty's cross set up McGinn to equalise before he scrambled home the winner in the closing minutes.

Faroe Islands gave Finland a shock in their opening game when Danish-born striker Christian Holst scored against the run of first-half play. But the Finns responded after the break with goals from Riku Riski (two) and Roman Eremenko.

Russia are the early leaders in Group G after their 4-0 win over Liechtenstein. Fabio Capello's side had plenty of chances to rake up their goal difference but missed a number of good opportunities. Liechtenstein conceded two own goals and a penalty before sub Artem Dzyuba scored his first international goal.

Austria and Sweden shared a 1-1 draw, with Austria enjoying the better of the first half after taking the lead through a David Alaba penalty in the fifth-minute. But as the Austrians tired, Sweden responded through former Turkey youth international Erkan Zengin who scored a thunderous equaliser on his competitive debut.

Montenegro beat Moldova 2-0, with the goals from Mirko Vucinic and Zarko Tomasevic either side of half-time, both scored from Nemanja Nikolic corners.

In Group H, Italy's new coach Antonio Conte got off to a winning start against Norway. Sassuolo striker Simone Zaza, in for the suspended Mario Balotelli, was on target in Oslo, while defender Leonardo Bonucci doubled Italy's lead on the hour mark.

There were also wins for Bulgaria (in Azerbaijan) and Croatia (home to Malta). Azerbaijan thought they had done enough to claim a point against the Bulgarians, with keeper Kamran Agayev making some important saves. But sub Ventsislav Hristov headed home an 87th-minute winner from a corner.

Croatia, who started with teenager Alen Halilovic, claimed a comfortable win over Malta in Zagreb. The result was never in doubt after Malta defender Steve Borg was sent off on the half hour mark for hitting out at Croatia forward Mario Mandzukic.

The top two teams from each group qualify automatically, along with the best third-placed nation. The other eight third-placed teams enter the play-offs.

*John Holmesdale*

• *See results and tables on page 84*

Unmoved...Ukraine protests fall on deaf ears as a last-minute goal against Slovakia is ruled out by the referee following a foul

# AFRICAN NATIONS CUP: QUALIFYING GROUP STAGE

# Early surprises on way to Morocco 2015

Post-World Cup predictions of a swift demise for Cameroon look not only premature but also unfounded as the "Indomitable Lions" bounced back to make a buoyant start to their African Nations Cup qualifying campaign and reinforce the unpredictable nature of football on the continent.

Algeria and Senegal, along with Burkina Faso – the shock package of the last finals – were among those who set down a marker in the opening two rounds of the group phase, while Cape Verde Islands and Congo took major scalps in their bid to qualify for January's finals in Morocco.

However, holders Nigeria lost a proud home record, Ivory Coast started the post-Didier Drogba era with a heavy loss and a home draw for Ghana precipitated the sacking of their coach.

Egypt, who have set the standard in the competition with a record seven titles, look to already be out after just two matches and seem likely to miss out on a third successive finals, having won three championships in a row before that.

Egypt's three-man defence was shredded by Senegal in their opening Group G qualifier in Dakar, where the hosts had a successful homecoming in a stadium that had been shut to international football for two years.

Dame N'Doye's sublime passes through the middle set up goals for Mame Biram Diouf and Sadio Mane as Alain Giresse got the tactics right on the night and Senegal won 2-0.

Back in Cairo, the Pharaohs then lost 1-0 to Tunisia, reflecting both the impact of the country's continuing civil strife, dating back to the Arab Spring, and the departures of Mohamed Aboutrika, Wael Gomaa and Mohamed Barakat from the team. The false start for new coach Shawki Gharib, the long-standing lieutenant of Hassan Shehata when Egypt were in their prime, quickly quashed hopes that he might lift the side back to past glories.

With two teams qualifying from each of the seven groups (plus the best of the third-placed finishers), Egypt trail Senegal and Tunisia by six points.

Nigeria have just one point from a possible six after a 3-2 home defeat by Congo in Calabar – the champions' first loss in a Nations Cup qualifier on home soil. It was also their first home competitive defeat since a World Cup setback against Algeria in 1981.

The Super Eagles have not been helped by political in-fighting at the Nigerian Football Federation and the uncertainty over the future of coach Stephen Keshi. His contract came to an end after the World Cup in Brazil, but he agreed to a request from the country's sports minister – who is trying to force NFF president Aminu Maigari from power – to return for the opening two matches in Group A and then earn himself a new contract.

Nigeria did draw in South Africa in their second game, but Keshi is still some way off any clarity on his long-term future.

Ghana's Kwesi Appiah had been given a vote of confidence after the World Cup despite returning from Brazil without a win, getting nowhere near his prediction of a place in the semi-finals, having two players sent home and the rest of the squad squabbling over money.

> "They dominated and deservedly won. We underrated them and paid dearly"
>
> Nigeria captain Austin Ejide after losing to Congo

But the writing was on the wall after his side were held at home in Group E by a well-drilled Uganda, seeking a place in the finals for the first time since 1978. The 1-1 draw in Kumasi, where Ghana needed a second-half penalty from Andre Ayew to share the spoils, was followed by a dramatic 3-2 win in neighbouring Togo, but Christian Atsu's late winner was not enough to save Appiah. He "mutually agreed to part ways" two days later, his firing glossed over by the Ghana FA's public relations department.

Ivory Coast, under new coach Herve Renard, who steered Zambia to their 2012 Nations Cup triumph, needed the creativity of Gervinho to edge past Sierra Leone 2-1 at home in their Group D opener but were then given a 4-1 pasting by Cameroon in Yaounde. Their defending was shambolic, leaving Renard with much work to do.

Beaten...Egypt's Ahmed Fathy (left) battles Youssef Msakni during Tunisia's win in Cairo

Cameroon had begun by beating DR Congo 2-0 in Lubumbashi with a debut goal from Clinton N'Jie, who coach Volker Finke had spotted when he went to Lyon to check on the condition of his injured defender Henri Bedimo. The 21-year-old winger, with just a handful of Ligue 1 appearances, was joined in a new-look line-up by Fabrice Onduoa, an 18-year-old goalkeeper from Barcelona's youth side, who made a very convincing debut.

Both were impressive again four days later as Cameroon beat the Ivorians, with N'Jie and Vincent Aboubakar, who recently signed for Porto, both scoring twice.

The team's sudden change in fortune has come without the presence of Samuel Eto'o, who has retired from the international game, and his long-time protagonist Alex Song, suspended after his needless red card in Brazil.

Without Eto'o, who did pretty much whatever he wanted with Cameroon, counter-attacks are now key to the team's game plan, with N'Jie and Aboubakar complemented by the pace of Benjamin Moukandjo.

Meanwhile, Cape Verde Islands, who appointed former Portugal striker Rui Aguas as their new coach, won 3-1 in Niger then beat Zambia at home in Group F. Zambia have just one point and need to rapidly refresh an ageing squad.

*Mark Gleeson*

• *See results and tables on page 86*

AUSTRIA

### Player headbutts ref

Ismail Gunduz of fifth division side SK Rum was banned for 70 games for headbutting a referee.

Gunduz's side were leading 3-2 when he was sent off for a second yellow card in the 86th minute. Having seen red, he attacked the official, who abandoned the match and was rushed to hospital.

The 26-year-old player called the punishment "madness" and said he will appeal, claiming it was all a "misunderstanding" and that he had merely slipped.

New record...Begovic

ENGLAND

### Longest-ever goal

Stoke City keeper Asmir Begovic's Premier League goal against Southampton in November last year has been officially recognised as the "longest" in a competitive game.

Guinness World Records confirmed that his clearance, which bounced over opposite number Artur Boruc and into the net, travelled a distance of 91.9metres and is the "longest goal scored in football".

Liverpool won a record-equalling penalty shoot-out to beat second-tier side Middlesbrough in the third round of the League Cup.

The Reds' 14-13 victory was the joint-highest ever seen in English professional football, with 30 spot-kicks needed following a 2-2 draw after extra-time.

The visitors' Albert Adomah missed the kick that settled the tie.

# Club Results

## EUROPE

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

#### Group A

*Sep 16*
**Juventus (Ita) 2** (Tevez 59, 90)
**Malmo (Swe) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 31,218. **Ref:** Marciniak (Pol)
**Juventus:** Buffon - Caceres, Bonucci, Chiellini, Lichtsteiner (Romulo 90+1), Pogba, Marchisio, Asamoah, Evra, Tevez (Giovinco 90+1), Llorente (Morata 86).
**Malmo:** Olsen - Johansson, Halsti, Helander, Tinnerholm, Eriksson (Rakip 81), Forsberg, Adu, Konate, Rosenberg (Mehmeti 53), Thelin (Kroon 73).

*Sep 16*
**Olympiakos (Gre) 3** (Masuaku 13, Afellay 31, Mitroglou 73)
**Atletico Madrid (Spa) 2** (Mandzukic 38, Griezmann 86)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 31,946. **Ref:** Proenca (Por)
**Olympiakos:** Roberto - Elabdellaoui, Botia, Abidal, Masuaku, Kasami (Giannoulis 84), Milivojevic, Maniatis, Dominguez (David Fuster 57), Afellay (N'Dinga 69), Mitroglou.
**Atletico:** Oblak - Juanfran, Godin, Miranda, Ansaldi, Mario Suarez (Saul Niguez 75), Gabi (Griezmann 56), Arda, Koke, Mandzukic, Raul Garcia (Cerci 66).

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juventus | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Olympiakos | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| At Madrid | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Malmo | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 16 | Juventus v Malmo | 2-0 |
| | Olympiakos v Atletico Madrid | 3-2 |
| Oct 1 | Atletico Madrid v Juventus | |
| | Malmo v Olympiakos | |
| Oct 22 | Atletico Madrid v Malmo | |
| | Olympiakos v Juventus | |
| Nov 4 | Juventus v Olympiakos | |
| | Malmo v Atletico Madrid | |
| Nov 26 | Atletico Madrid v Olympiakos | |
| | Malmo v Juventus | |
| Dec 9 | Juventus v Atletico Madrid | |
| | Olympiakos v Malmo | |

#### Group B

*Sep 16*
**Liverpool (Eng) 2** (Balotelli 82, Gerrard pen 90+3)
**Ludogorets (Bul) 1** (Dani Abalo 90)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 43,307. **Ref:** Jug (Sln)
**Liverpool:** Mignolet - Javi Manquillo, Lovren, Sakho, Moreno, Henderson, Gerrard, Lallana (Borini 67), Sterling, Balotelli, Philippe Coutinho (Lucas 68).
**Ludogorets:** Borjan - Junior Caicara, Moti, A Aleksandrov, Minev, M Aleksandrov, Dyakov (Fabio Espinho 85), Anicet, Misidjan (Dani Abalo 72), Marcelinho, Bezjak (Hamza 86).

*Sep 16*
**Real Madrid (Spa) 5** (Suchy og 14, Bale 30, Cristiano Ronaldo 31, Rodriguez 37, Benzema 79)
**Basle (Swi) 1** (Gonzalez 38)
**HT:** 4-1. **Att:** 65,364. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
**Real Madrid:** Casillas - Nacho, Pepe, Sergio Ramos (Varane 66), Marcelo, Modric (Illarramendi 74), Kroos, Rodriguez, Bale, Benzema (Hernandez 82), Cristiano Ronaldo.
**Basle:** Vaclik - Schar, Samuel (Kakitani 64), Suchy, Xhaka, El Neny, Frei (Delgado 83), Safari, Gonzalez, Streller (Embolo 73), Zuffi.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Real Madrid | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Liverpool | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Ludogorets | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Basle | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 16 | Liverpool v Ludogorets | 2-1 |
| | Real Madrid v Basle | 5-1 |
| Oct 1 | Basle v Liverpool | |
| | Ludogorets v Real Madrid | |
| Oct 22 | Liverpool v Real Madrid | |
| | Ludogorets v Basle | |
| Nov 4 | Basle v Ludogorets | |
| | Real Madrid v Liverpool | |
| Nov 26 | Basle v Real Madrid | |
| | Ludogorets v Liverpool | |
| Dec 9 | Liverpool v Basle | |
| | Real Madrid v Ludogorets | |

#### Group C

*Sep 16*
**Benfica (Por) 0**
**Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 2** (Hulk 5, Witsel 22)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 35,294. **Ref:** Moen (Nor)
**Benfica:** Artur - Pereira, Luisao, Jardel, Eliseu, Samaris (Andre Almeida 74), Perez, Salvio, Gaitan, Talisca (Paulo Lopes 20), Lima (Derley 74).
*Sent off: Artur 18.*
**Zenit:** Lodygin - Smolnikov (Anyukov 46), Garay, Lombaerts, Criscito, Javi Garcia, Witsel, Shatov, Danny, Hulk (Arshavin 85), Rondon (Mogilevets 76).

*Sep 16*
**Monaco (Fra) 1** (Joao Moutinho 61)
**Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 8,130. **Ref:** Kralovec (CzR)
**Monaco:** Subasic - Fabinho, Ricardo Carvalho (Wallace 90+4), Raggi, Kurzawa, Toulalan, Kondogbia, Joao Moutinho, Ferreira Carrasco (Dirar 86), Ocampos (Bernardo Silva 57), Berbatov.
**Leverkusen:** Leno - Jedvaj (Donati 65), Toprak (Reinartz 71), Spahic, Boenisch, Bender (Drmic 76), Castro, Bellarabi, Calhanoglu, Son, Kiessling.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zenit | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Monaco | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Leverkusen | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Benfica | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 16 | Benfica v Zenit | 0-2 |
| | Monaco v Leverkusen | 1-0 |
| Oct 1 | Leverkusen v Benfica | |
| | Zenit v Monaco | |
| Oct 22 | Leverkusen v Zenit | |
| | Monaco v Benfica | |
| Nov 4 | Benfica v Monaco | |
| | Zenit v Leverkusen | |
| Nov 26 | Leverkusen v Monaco | |
| | Zenit v Benfica | |
| Dec 9 | Benfica v Leverkusen | |
| | Monaco v Zenit | |

#### Group D

*Sep 16*
**Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 2** (Immobile 45, Aubameyang 48)
**Arsenal (Eng) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 65,851. **Ref:** Benquerenca (Por)
**Dortmund:** Weidenfeller - Durm, Subotic, Papastathopoulos, Schmelzer (Jojic 79), Bender, Kehl (Ginter 46), Mkhitaryan, Grosskreutz, Immobile (Ramos 86), Aubameyang.
**Arsenal:** Szczesny - Bellerin, Mertesacker, Koscielny, Gibbs, Arteta (Podolski 77), Ozil (Oxlade-Chamberlain 62), Ramsey (Cazorla 62), Wilshere, Sanchez, Welbeck.

*Sep 16*
**Galatasaray (Tur) 1** (Burak 90+1)
**Anderlecht (Blg) 1** (Praet 52)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 28,553. **Ref:** Vad (Hun)
**Galatasaray:** Muslera - Veysel, Semih, Chedjou, Alex Telles (Camdal 79), Dzemaili, Felipe Melo, Pandev (Bruma 57), Selcuk (Umut 72), Sneijder, Burak.
**Anderlecht:** Roef - Najar, Mbemba, Nuytinck (Suarez 23), Deschacht, Tielemans, Defour, Conte, Praet (Dendoncker 78), Acheampong, Mitrovic (Kljestan 66).

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dortmund | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Anderlecht | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Galatasaray | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Arsenal | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 16 | Dortmund v Arsenal | 2-0 |
| | Galatasaray v Anderlecht | 1-1 |
| Oct 1 | Anderlecht v Dortmund | |
| | Arsenal v Galatasaray | |
| Oct 22 | Anderlecht v Arsenal | |
| | Galatasaray v Dortmund | |
| Nov 4 | Arsenal v Anderlecht | |
| | Dortmund v Galatasaray | |
| Nov 26 | Anderlecht v Galatasaray | |
| | Arsenal v Dortmund | |
| Dec 9 | Dortmund v Anderlecht | |
| | Galatasaray v Arsenal | |

#### Group E

*Sep 17*
**Bayern Munich (Ger) 1** (Boateng 90)
**Manchester City (Eng) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 68,000. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
**Bayern:** Neuer - Benatia (Dante 85), Boateng, Alaba, Rafinha (Pizarro 84), Lahm, Xabi Alonso, Bernat, Gotze, Muller (Robben 76), Lewandowski.
**Man City:** Hart - Sagna, Kompany, Demichelis, Clichy, Fernandinho, Toure, Jesus Navas (Kolarov 88), Silva, Nasri (Milner 58), Dzeko (Aguero 74).

*Sep 17*
**Roma (Ita) 5** (Iturbe 6, Gervinho 10, 31, Maicon 20, Ignashevich og 50)
**CSKA Moscow (Rus) 1** (Musa 82)
**HT:** 4-0. **Att:** 40,888. **Ref:** Fernandez Borbalan (Spa)
**Roma:** De Sanctis - Maicon, Manolas (Yanga-Mbiwa 76), Astori, Torosidis, Keita, Pjanic, Nainggolan, Gervinho (Ljajic 71), Iturbe (Florenzi 26), Totti.
**CSKA:** Akinfeev - Mario Fernandes, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, Nababkin (Schennikov 46), Natcho, Milanov, Tosic (Efremov 53), Eremenko (Panchenko 66), Musa, Doumbia.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP E**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roma | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Bayern Munich | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Man City | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CSKA Moscow | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 17 | Bayern v Manchester City | 1-0 |
| | Roma v CSKA | 5-1 |
| Sep 30 | CSKA v Bayern | |
| | Manchester City v Roma | |
| Oct 21 | CSKA v Manchester City | |
| | Roma v Bayern | |
| Nov 5 | Bayern v Roma | |
| | Manchester City v CSKA | |
| Nov 25 | CSKA v Roma | |
| | Manchester City v Bayern | |
| Dec 10 | Bayern v CSKA | |
| | Roma v Manchester City | |

#### Group F

*Sep 17*
**Ajax (Hol) 1** (Schone 74)
**Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 1** (Cavani 14)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 50,430. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
**Ajax:** Cillessen - Van Rhijn, Veltman, Moisander, Bollesen, Viergever (Zimling 46), Klaassen, Serero, Schone (Milik 82), Andersen, Sigthorsson (El Ghazi 61).
**PSG:** Sirigu - Van der Wiel, Marquinhos, David Luiz, Maxwell, Verratti (Pastore 81), Thiago Motta, Matuidi, Lucas Moura (Lavezzi 81), Ibrahimovic, Cavani.

*Sep 17*
**Barcelona (Spa) 1** (Pique 28)
**APOEL (Cyp) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 62,832. **Ref:** Aytekin (Ger)
**Barcelona:** Ter Stegen - Daniel Alves, Pique, Bartra, Adriano, Samper, Xavi (Iniesta 61), Sergi Roberto (Rafinha 79), Messi, Munir (Sandro 68), Neymar.
**APOEL:** Pardo - Mario Sergio, Joao Guilherme, Carlao, Antoniades, Nuno Morais, Vinicius, Tiago Gomes (Manduca 61), Aloneftis, De Vincenti (Charalambides 79), Sheridan (Djebbour 75).

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP F**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Ajax | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSG | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| APOEL | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 17 | Ajax v PSG | 1-1 |
| | Barcelona v APOEL | 1-0 |
| Sep 30 | APOEL v Ajax | |
| | PSG v Barcelona | |
| Oct 21 | APOEL v PSG | |
| | Barcelona v Ajax | |
| Nov 5 | Ajax v Barcelona | |
| | PSG v APOEL | |
| Nov 25 | APOEL v Barcelona | |
| | PSG v Ajax | |
| Dec 10 | Ajax v APOEL | |
| | Barcelona v PSG | |

FRANCE

## Minnows disbanded

Luzenac, the village team that was prevented from playing in Ligue 2 this season, has folded.

From a village with a population of just 649, Luzenac won promotion last term, but the Professional Football League ruled they could not take their place in the second tier because their home ground did not meet the required safety standards. Last season, the club from the Pyrenees, whose own Stade Paul Fedou ground only has one stand and 400 seats, played their home games at nearby Foix, where the capacity was just 3,000.

After being denied promotion, French World Cup-winning goalkeeper Fabien Barthez stepped down as managing director, saying: "You need to know when to say 'stop', when you can no longer struggle.

"We did all we could to get back. I became president and majority shareholder. Everything's stalled, as well as the budget. We take the list of pros and cons and there's no comparison."

The club's reserve side will now become the first

Over...Barthez (second left) and Luzenac's players hear the news

**Group G**

*Sep 17*
**Chelsea (Eng) 1** (Fabregas 11)
**Schalke (Ger) 1** (Huntelaar 62)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 40,648. **Ref:** Bebek (Cro)
**Chelsea:** Courtois - Ivanovic, Cahill, Terry, Filipe Luis, Ramires (Oscar 67), Matic, Willian (Remy 74), Fabregas, Hazard, Drogba (Diego Costa 74).
**Schalke:** Fahrmann - Hoger, Ayhan, Neustadter, Fuchs, Boateng, Aogo, Sam (Barnetta 78), Meyer (Choupo-Moting 74), Draxler (Obasi 86), Huntelaar.

*Sep 17*
**Maribor (Sln) 1** (Zahovic 90+2)
**Sporting Lisbon (Por) 1** (Nani 80)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 12,211. **Ref:** Turpin (Fra)
**Maribor:** Handanovic - Stojanovic, Rajcevic, Arghus, Viler, Mertelj, Filipovic, Sallalich (Bohar 58), Vrsic (Zahovic 81), Tavares (Mendy 84), Ibraimi.
**Sporting:** Rui Patricio - Cedric, Mauricio, Sarr, Jefferson, William Carvalho, Andre Martins (Joao Mario 46), Adrien Silva, Nani, Carrillo (Carlos Mane 66), Slimani (Montero 90+2).

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP G**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Maribor | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Schalke | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sporting | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 17 | Chelsea v Schalke | 1-1 |
| | Maribor v Sporting | 1-1 |
| Sep 30 | Schalke v Maribor | |
| | Sporting v Chelsea | |
| Oct 21 | Chelsea v Maribor | |
| | Schalke v Sporting | |
| Nov 5 | Maribor v Chelsea | |
| | Sporting v Schalke | |
| Nov 25 | Schalke v Chelsea | |
| | Sporting v Maribor | |
| Dec 10 | Chelsea v Sporting | |
| | Maribor v Schalke | |

**Group H**

*Sep 17*
**Athletic Bilbao (Spa) 0**
**Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 0**
**Att:** 48,351. **Ref:** Sidiropoulos (Gre)
**Athletic:** Iraizoz - De Marcos, Gurpegi, Laporte, Balenziaga, Iturraspe, Mikel Rico, Muniain (Aketxe 75), Benat (Susaeta 64), Ibai Gomez, Aduriz (Guillermo 77).
**Shakhtar:** Pyatov - Srna, Kucher, Rakytskyi, Marcio Azevedo, Stepanenko, Fernando (Fred 73), Douglas Costa, Alex Teixeira, Taison (Marlos 80), Luiz Adriano (Hladkyi 89).

*Sep 17*
**Porto (Por) 6** (Brahimi 5, 32, 57, Martinez 37, Adrian 61, Aboubakar 76)
**BATE Borisov (Bls) 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 35,108. **Ref:** Nijhuis (Hol)
**Porto:** Fabiano - Danilo, Maicon, Martins Indi, Alex Sandro, Casemiro, Herrera (Tello 69), Brahimi (Evandro 59), Quaresma, Adrian, Martinez (Aboubakar 64).
**BATE:** Chernik - Khagush, Polyakov, Filipenko, Mladenovic, Olekhnovich (Karnitski 62), Likhtarovich (Yakovlev 53), Volodko, Gordeychuk, Aleksievich, Rodionov (Signevich 71).

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP H**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Porto | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 3 |
| Athletic Bilbao | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Shakhtar | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| BATE Borisov | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 17 | Athletic Bilbao v Shakhtar | 0-0 |
| | Porto v BATE | 6-0 |
| Sep 30 | BATE v Athletic Bilbao | |
| | Shakhtar v Porto | |
| Oct 21 | BATE v Shakhtar | |
| | Porto v Athletic Bilbao | |
| Nov 5 | Athletic Bilbao v Porto | |
| | Shakhtar v BATE | |
| Nov 25 | BATE v Porto | |
| | Shakhtar v Athletic Bilbao | |
| Dec 10 | Athletic Bilbao v BATE | |
| | Porto v Shakhtar | |

*Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round; 3rd-placed teams enter Europa League at 1st knockout round stage*

## EUROPA LEAGUE

**Group A**

Sep 18: Apollon (Cyp) 3 Zurich (Swi) 2; Monchengladbach (Ger) 1 Villarreal (Spa) 1.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Apollon | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| M'gladbach | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Villarreal | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Zurich | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 |

**Group B**

Sep 18: Club Brugge (Blg) 0 Torino (Ita) 0; Copenhagen (Den) 2 HJK Helsinki (Fin) 0.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copenhagen | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Club Brugge | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Torino | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| HJK Helsinki | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

**Group C**

Sep 18: Besiktas (Tur) 1 Asteras (Gre) 1; Partizan Belgrade (Ser) 0 Tottenham Hotspur (Eng) 0.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Asteras | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Besiktas | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Partizan | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Tottenham | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

**Group D**

Sep 18: Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 5 Astra (Rom) 1; Salzburg (Aut) 2 Celtic (Sco) 2.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dinamo Zagreb | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Celtic | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Salzburg | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Astra | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

**Group E**

Sep 18: Panathinaikos (Gre) 1 Dynamo Moscow (Rus) 2; PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 1 Estoril (Por) 0.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP E**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dynamo Mo'w | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| PSV | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Panathinaikos | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Estoril | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

**Group F**

Sep 18: Dnipro (Ukr) 0 Internazionale (Ita) 1; Qarabag (Aze) 0 Saint-Etienne (Fra) 0.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP F**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Internazionale | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Qarabag | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Saint-Etienne | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Dnipro | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

**Group G**

Sep 18: Sevilla (Spa) 2 Feyenoord (Hol) 0; Standard Liege (Blg) 2 Rijeka (Cro) 0.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP G**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sevilla | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Standard Liege | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Feyenoord | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Rijeka | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

**Group H**

Sep 18: Everton (Eng) 4 Wolfsburg (Ger) 1; Lille (Fra) 1 Krasnodar (Rus) 1.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP H**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Everton | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Krasnodar | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Lille | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Wolfsburg | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 |

**Group I**

Sep 18: Napoli (Ita) 3 Sparta Prague (CzR) 1; Young Boys (Swi) 5 Slovan Bratislava (Slk) 0.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP I**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Young Boys | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 |
| Napoli | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Sparta Prague | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Slovan B'slava | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

**Group J**

Sep 18: Rio Ave (Por) 0 Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 3; Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 6 AaB (Den) 0.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP J**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Steaua | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 3 |
| Dynamo Kiev | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Rio Ave | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| AaB | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 |

**Group K**

Sep 18: Fiorentina (Ita) 3 Guingamp (Fra) 0; PAOK Salonika (Gre) 6 Dinamo Minsk (Bls) 1.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP K**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PAOK Salonika | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Fiorentina | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Guingamp | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Dinamo Minsk | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 |

**Group L**

Sep 18: Legia Warsaw (Pol) 1 Lokeren (Blg) 0; Metalist (Ukr) 1 Trabzonspor (Tur) 2.

**EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP L**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trabzonspor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Legia Warsaw | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Metalist | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Lokeren | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

**Remaining matchdays:**
*Oct 2, Oct 23, Nov 6, Nov 27, Dec 11*

*Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round, in which they will be joined by the 8 3rd-placed teams from the Champions League group stage*

## AUSTRIA

Aug 30: Salzburg 2 Sturm 3; Admira 2 Austria 1; Altach 2 Ried 2; Wolfsberger 0 Wiener Neustadt 1.
Aug 31: Rapid 2 Grodig 0.
Sep 13: Austria 3 Ried 1; Sturm 0 Admira 2.
Sep 14: Wolfsberger 1 Salzburg 0.
Sep 17: W Neustadt 1 Rapid 5; Grodig 3 Altach 3.
Sep 20: Rapid 3 Wolfsberger 0; Ried 0 Sturm 1; Admira 0 Grodig 0; Altach 2 Wiener Neustadt 0.
Sep 21: Salzburg 2 Austria 3.

**AUSTRIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wolfsberger | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 8 | 21 |
| Salzburg | 9 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 33 | 8 | 18 |
| Rapid | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 12 | 15 |
| Admira | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 15 | 12 |
| Altach | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 12 |
| Sturm | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 11 |
| Austria | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 15 | 11 |
| Grodig | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 19 | 10 |
| W Neustadt | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 28 | 7 |
| Ried | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 17 | 6 |

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

## BELGIUM

**Regular season**

Aug 29: Gent 0 Kortrijk 1.
Aug 30: Oostende 1 Genk 1; Mouscron Peruwelz 4 Cercle Brugge 0; Westerlo 2 Zulte Waregem 2; Waasland-Beveren 2 Lierse 0.
Aug 31: Club Brugge 2 Anderlecht 2; Lokeren 1 Standard 1; Charleroi 2 Mechelen 0.
Sep 13: Lierse 2 Anderlecht 2; Zulte Waregem 1 Waasland-Beveren 4; Mechelen 5 Westerlo 2; Cercle Brugge 1 Charleroi 0; Standard 3 Oostende 5.
Sep 14: Genk 1 Club Brugge 1; Gent 1 Mouscron Peruwelz 0; Kortrijk 2 Lokeren 3.
Sep 19: Charleroi 2 Zulte Waregem 1.
Sep 20: Mouscron Peruwelz 1 Genk 2; Anderlecht 3 Cercle Brugge 2; Oostende 1 Gent 3; Westerlo 6 Lierse 1.
Sep 21: Waasland-Beveren 0 Standard 2; Club Brugge 5 Kortrijk 0; Lokeren 3 Mechelen 2.

**BELGIUM – REGULAR**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anderlecht | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 16 | 8 | 18 |
| Gent | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 16 |
| Lokeren | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 8 | 14 |
| Club Brugge | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 13 |
| Westerlo | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 19 | 15 | 13 |
| Oostende | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 13 |
| Mouscron P | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 11 | 11 |
| Standard | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 16 | 11 |
| Genk | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 11 |
| Charleroi | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 10 |
| Mechelen | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 15 | 16 | 9 |
| Cercle Brugge | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 9 |
| Waasland-B | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 8 |
| Kortrijk | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 17 | 7 |
| Zulte Waregem | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 6 |
| Lierse | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 5 |

30-round regular season (15x2); top 6 will form championship group, 7th to 14th will enter Europa League-place play-offs, 15th & 16th (bottom 2) will enter relegation play-off series (the winners of which will enter rel/prom play-offs, the losers will go down)

team and play in the amateur seventh division.

Bastia's Brazilian striker Brandao was banned for six months for headbutting Paris Saint-Germain's Thiago Motta.

The 34-year-old, who attacked his opponent in the tunnel after a Ligue 1 meeting between the two teams in August, will be able to return to action on February 21 next year.

GREECE

### Second division stops

The second tier of Greek football has been postponed due to the financial difficulties faced by most of the clubs involved in the division.

The Greek Organisation of Football Prognostics, which has a monopoly on lottery and sports betting in the country, had cut its funding of the league by 30 per cent.

Divided into northern and southern divisions, the 26-team second-tier Football League is currently home to AEK Athens, who have been national champions 11 times, and Larissa, who are the only club outside the cities of Athens and Thessaloniki to have won the Greek top flight.

ISRAEL

### New stadium opens

Hen Ezra scored the first goal at the new Haifa International Stadium as Maccabi Haifa beat Bnei Sakhnin 4-2. The club has sold a record 15,000 season tickets since leaving their old Kiryat Eliezer Stadium. The new stadium will also host Hapoel Haifa's home games.

First to score...Ezra

## CZECH REPUBLIC

Aug 29: Brno 1 Teplice 1; Jihlava 0 Ceske Budejovice 0.
Aug 30: Liberec 6 Ostrava 0; Slovacko 4 Pribram 1; Bohemians 1905 1 Hradec Kralove 1; Mlada Boleslav 2 Slavia 1.
Aug 31: Sparta 2 Jablonec 0; Plzen 2 Dukla 1.
Sep 2: Teplice 4 Ceske Budejovice 0.
Sep 12: Slavia 1 Brno 3.
Sep 13: Pribram 1 Jablonec 4; Ceske Budejovice 2 Slovacko 2; Hradec Kralove 0 Jihlava 3; Dukla 0 Bohemians 1905 1; Ostrava 1 Mlada Boleslav 0; Teplice 0 Sparta 0.
Sep 15: Liberec 1 Plzen 1.
Sep 19: Mlada Boleslav 3 Teplice 0.
Sep 20: Slovacko 5 Dukla 1; Jihlava 0 Pribram 1; Jablonec 0 Ceske Budejovice 0; Brno 1 Liberec 0; Bohemians 1905 2 Slavia 0.
Sep 21: Plzen 2 Ostrava 0; Sparta 3 Hradec Kralove 1.

| CZECH REPUBLIC | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plzen | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 6 | 17 |
| Sparta | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 4 | 16 |
| Slovacko | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 10 | 14 |
| Jablonec | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 14 |
| M Boleslav | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 6 | 13 |
| Boh'ians 1905 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 13 |
| Brno | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 8 | 12 |
| Slavia | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 12 | 12 |
| Teplice | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 11 |
| Ostrava | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 11 |
| Dukla | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 9 |
| Liberec | 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 8 |
| C Budejovice | 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 14 | 8 |
| H Kralove | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 6 |
| Pribram | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 5 |
| Jihlava | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 4 |

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

## DENMARK

Aug 30: SonderjyskE 1 Randers 1.
Aug 31: Silkeborg 2 AaB 2; Midtjylland 2 Esbjerg 0; Nordsjaelland 0 Brondby 3; OB 0 Copenhagen 1.
Sep 1: Hobro 3 Vestsjaelland 1.
Sep 12: Midtjylland 3 OB 2.
Sep 13: AaB 1 Copenhagen 0.
Sep 14: Silkeborg 1 Nordsjaelland 2; Brondby 0 Randers 2; Esbjerg 3 Vestsjaelland 0.
Sep 15: SonderjyskE 1 Hobro 1.
Sep 19: Randers 1 Silkeborg 0.
Sep 20: Hobro 1 Esbjerg 1.
Sep 21: OB 1 SonderjyskE 1; Copenhagen 1 Brondby 0; Nordsjaelland 2 Midtjylland 1.
Sep 22: Vestsjaelland 1 AaB 0.

| DENMARK | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Midtjylland | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 10 | 18 |
| Randers | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| Nordsjaelland | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 16 |
| Hobro | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 6 | 15 |
| Copenhagen | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 11 |
| AaB | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| Brondby | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 10 |
| Vestsjaelland | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 13 | 10 |
| SonderjyskE | 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| Esbjerg | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| OB | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 12 | 6 |
| Silkeborg | 8 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 3 |

33-round season (11x3); bottom 2 will be relegated

## ENGLAND

**Saturday, August 30**

**Burnley 0**
**Manchester United 0** Att: 21,099

**Everton 3** (Mirallas 45, Naismith 69, Eto'o 76)
**Chelsea 6** (Diego Costa 1, 90, Ivanovic 3, Coleman og 67, Matic 74, Ramires 77) Att: 39,402

**Manchester City 0**
**Stoke 1** (Diouf 58) Att: 45,622

**Newcastle 3** (Janmaat 37, Aarons 73, Williamson 88)
**Crystal Palace 3** (Gayle 1, Puncheon 48, Zaha 90+5) Att: 49,226

**Queens Park Rangers 1** (Austin 45+2)
**Sunderland 0** Att: 17,930

**Swansea 3** (Dyer 2, 71, Routledge 24)
**West Bromwich 0** Att: 20,318

**West Ham 1** (Noble 27)
**Southampton 3** (Schneiderlin 45, 68, Pelle 83) Att: 34,907

**Sunday, August 31**

**Aston Villa 2** (Agbonlahor 14, Weimann 36)
**Hull 1** (Jelavic 74) Att: 28,336

**Leicester 1** (Ulloa 22)
**Arsenal 1** (Sanchez 20) Att: 31,535

**Tottenham 0**
**Liverpool 3** (Sterling 8, Gerrard pen 49, Moreno 60) Att: 36,130

**Saturday, September 13**

**Arsenal 2** (Wilshere 63, Sanchez 74)
**Manchester City 2** (Aguero 28, Demichelis 83) Att: 60,003

**Chelsea 4** (Diego Costa 45, 56, 67, Remy 81)
**Swansea 2** (Terry og 11, Shelvey 86) Att: 41,400

**Crystal Palace 0**
**Burnley 0** Att: 23,829

**Liverpool 0**
**Aston Villa 1** (Agbonlahor 9) Att: 44,689

**Southampton 4** (Pelle 6, 19, Cork 54, Schneiderlin 90+4)
**Newcastle 0** Att: 29,678

**Stoke 0**
**Leicester 1** (Ulloa 64) Att: 27,500

**Sunderland 2** (Johnson 4, Kane og 82)
**Tottenham 2** (Chadli 2, Eriksen 48) Att: 40,799

**West Bromwich 0**
**Everton 2** (Lukaku 2, Mirallas 66) Att: 23,567

**Sunday, September 14**

**Manchester United 4** (Di Maria 24, Ander Herrera 36, Rooney 44, Mata 58)
**Queens Park Rangers 0** Att: 75,355

**Monday, September 15**

**Hull 2** (Hernandez 39, Diame 64)
**West Ham 2** (Valencia 50, Sakho 67) Att: 21,275

**Saturday, September 20**

**Aston Villa 0**
**Arsenal 3** (Ozil 32, Welbeck 34, Cissokho og 36) Att: 40,013

**Burnley 0**
**Sunderland 0** Att: 20,026

**Newcastle 2** (Cisse 73, 87)
**Hull 2** (Jelavic 48, Diame 68) Att: 49,119

**Queens Park Rangers 2** (Caulker 42, Kranjcar 88)
**Stoke 2** (Diouf 11, Crouch 51) Att: 16,163

**Swansea 0**
**Southampton 1** (Wanyama 80) Att: 20,596

**West Ham 3** (Reid 2, Sakho 7, Amalfitano 88)
**Liverpool 1** (Sterling 26) Att: 34,977

**Sunday, September 21**

**Everton 2** (Lukaku 9, Baines pen 83)
**Crystal Palace 3** (Jedinak pen 30, Campbell 54, Bolasie 69) Att: 37,574

**Leicester 5** (Ulloa 17, pen 83, Nugent pen 62, Cambiasso 64, Vardy 79)
**Manchester United 3** (Van Persie 13, Di Maria 16, Ander Herrera 57) Att: 31,784

**Manchester City 1** (Lampard 85)
**Chelsea 1** (Schurrle 71) Att: 45,602

**Tottenham 0**
**West Bromwich 1** (Morrison 74) Att: 35,861

| ENGLAND | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 7 | 13 |
| Southampton | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 10 |
| Aston Villa | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 10 |
| Arsenal | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 9 |
| Swansea | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| Man City | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| Leicester | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| West Ham | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| Tottenham | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| Hull | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Liverpool | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| Man United | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 5 |
| Stoke | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Everton | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 13 | 5 |
| Crystal Palace | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 5 |
| West Brom | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| Sunderland | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| QPR | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 4 |
| Burnley | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Newcastle | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 3 |

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

**Leading goalscorers**

7 Diego Costa (Chelsea)
5 Leonardo Ulloa (Leicester)

## FRANCE

**Friday, August 29**

**Marseille 4** (Payet 19, 48, Thauvin 45, Barrada 87)
**Nice 0** Att: 41,413

**Saturday, August 30**

**Caen 0**
**Rennes 1** (Toivonen pen 88) Att: 12,767

**Lens 4** (Cyprien 45, Chavarria 47, Touzghar pen 61, Coulibaly pen 87)
**Reims 2** (Mandi 7, Courtet 80) Att: 9,846

**Lorient 4** (Jeannot 58, Lavigne 80, 90+3, Ayew 83)
**Guingamp 0** Att: 13,061

**Monaco 1** (Berbatov 61)
**Lille 1** (Roux 18) Att: 9,345

**Nantes 1** (Gakpe 79)
**Montpellier 0** Att: 21,559

**Toulouse 1** (Regattin 78)
**Evian TG 0** Att: 10,206

**Sunday, August 31**

**Bordeaux 1** (Rolan 78)
**Bastia 1** (Tallo 18) Att: 21,917

**Metz 2** (Ngbakoto pen 82, Falcon 86)
**Lyon 1** (Lacazette 68) Att: 20,168

**Paris Saint-Germain 5** (Ruffier og 24, Ibrahimovic 41, 62, 72, Cavani 63)
**Saint-Etienne 0** Att: 46,088

**Friday, September 12**

**Lyon 2** (Fekir 30, Tolisso 73)
**Monaco 1** (Ocampos 39) Att: 34,099

**Saturday, September 13**

**Bastia 1** (Gillet 54)
**Lens 1** (Chavarria 40) Att: 12,479

**Montpellier 1** (Kone og 44)
**Lorient 0** Att: 12,106

**Nice 1** (Bosetti 90+5)
**Metz 0** Att: 18,019

**Reims 2** (N'Gog 13, Courtet 86)
**Toulouse 0** Att: 11,019

**Rennes 1** (Ntep 56)
**Paris Saint-Germain 1** (Camara 43) Att: 27,290

**Saint-Etienne 1** (Pierre og 74)
**Caen 0** Att: 26,293

**Sunday, September 14**

**Evian TG 1** (Nsikulu 90+1)
**Marseille 3** (Gignac 1, Imbula 44, Thauvin 63) Att: 12,967

**Guingamp 2** (Diallo 26, Mandanne pen 34)
**Bordeaux 1** (Diabate 83) Att: 12,912

**Lille 2** (Origi 46, Lopes 49)
**Nantes 0** Att: 32,560

**Friday, September 19**

**Bordeaux 2** (Rolan 19, Khazri 56)
**Evian TG 1** (Tejeda 86) Att: 15,103

**Saturday, September 20**

**Lorient 0**
**Reims 1** (Moukandjo 72) Att: 12,004

**Marseille 3** (Gignac 50, 63, Alessandrini 90+4)
**Rennes 0** Att: 46,150

**Metz 3** (Krivets 14, Milan 64, Falcon 74)
**Bastia 1** (Ayite 42) Att: 18,605

**Nantes 2** (Amavi og 9, Shechter 43)
**Nice 1** (Amavi 70) Att: 23,240

ITALY

## Biabiany heart worry

Parma's French winger Jonathan Biabiany has been ruled out of action indefinitely after he was found to have a heart problem. The 26-year-old was diagnosed with cardiac arrhythmia the day after he played in the 1-0 defeat away to Cesena.

"He has undergone several tests and on the basis of these, following consultation with external specialists, we decided he should not play for a limited period of time," said the club's sports director, Pietro Leonardi.

"During this time the player will be monitored and then subjected to further tests before resuming any kind of competition."

Biabiany's current team-mate Antonio Cassano suffered a heart problem in 2011 while he was with Milan. Diagnosed with an atrial septal defect in his heart, he underwent an operation that allowed him to continue his career.

In the league, top-of-the-table Juventus' 3-0 victory at home to Cesena saw them become the first team in Serie A history to win their first four league

Out of action...Biabiany undergoes fitness tests at Parma

**Toulouse 3** (Ben Yedder pen 21, Regattin pen 83, Ninkov 87)
**Caen 3** (Raspentino 7, Nangis 76, Calve 86)
Att: 13,058

Sunday, September 21
**Lens 0**
**Saint-Etienne 1** (Lemoine 82) Att: 11,072

**Lille 0**
**Montpellier 0** Att: 31,742

**Monaco 1** (Dirar 38)
**Guingamp 0** Att: 6,351

**Paris Saint-Germain 1** (Cavani 20)
**Lyon 1** (Umtiti 84) Att: 45,428

Tuesday, September 23
**Reims 0**
**Marseille 5** (Gignac 8, 20, Ayew 52, 59, Imbula 74)
Att: 17,705

**Rennes 0**
**Toulouse 3** (Pesic 42, Diagne og 58, Ben Yedder 62)
Att: 17,182

Wednesday, September 24
**Bastia 0**
**Nantes 0** Att: 11,380

**Caen 0**
**Paris Saint-Germain 2** (Lucas Moura 18, Marquinhos 56) Att: 19,998

**Evian TG 2** (Wass 10, Mensah 30)
**Lens 1** (Touzghar 55) Att: 9,864

**Guingamp 0**
**Metz 1** (Bussmann 24) Att: 12,712

**Lyon 4** (Lacazette 5, Fekir 39, 68, N'Jie 50)
**Lorient 0** Att: 32,523

**Montpellier 0**
**Monaco 1** (Germain 90+3) Att: 11,570

**Nice 1** (Bodmer 41)
**Lille 0** Att: 16,541

Thursday, September 25
**Saint-Etienne 1** (Van Wolfswinkel 31)
**Bordeaux 1** (Tiago Ilori 39) Att: 25,510

FRANCE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Marseille | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 6 | 16 |
| Bordeaux | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 7 | 14 |
| Saint-Etienne | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 14 |
| PSG | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 4 | 13 |
| Lille | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 12 |
| Metz | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 11 |
| Nantes | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 11 |
| Lyon | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 7 | 10 |
| Montpellier | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 10 |
| Toulouse | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| Monaco | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 10 |
| Nice | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 10 |
| Rennes | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 8 |
| Caen | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Lens | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| Bastia | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 7 |
| Lorient | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| Reims | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 7 |
| Guingamp | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 6 |
| Evian TG | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 16 | 4 |

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers
8 Andre-Pierre Gignac (Marseille)
5 Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Paris Saint-Germain)
4 Wissam Ben Yedder (Toulouse)
Alexandre Lacazette (Lyon)
Diego Rolan (Bordeaux)

## GERMANY

Friday, August 29
**Augsburg 2** (Bobadilla 82, Matavz 89)
**Borussia Dortmund 3** (Reus 11, Papastathopoulos 14, Ramos 78) Att: 30,660

Saturday, August 30
**Bayer Leverkusen 4** (Jedvaj 50, Spahic 62, Brandt 74, Bellarabi 86)
**Hertha Berlin 2** (Jedvaj og 24, Schieber 60)
Att: 27,819

**Hamburg 0**
**Paderborn 3** (Kachunga 29, Vrancic 68, Stoppelkamp 87) Att: 54,553

**Schalke 1** (Howedes 62)
**Bayern Munich 1** (Lewandowski 10) Att: 61,973

**Stuttgart 0**
**Cologne 2** (Osako 22, Ujah 33) Att: 55,000

**Werder Bremen 1** (Galvez 59)
**Hoffenheim 1** (Roberto Firmino 19) Att: 38,900

**Wolfsburg 2** (Naldo 15, Arnold 79)
**Eintracht Frankfurt 2** (Jung og 23, Kadlec 86)
Att: 27,528

Sunday, August 31
**Freiburg 0**
**Monchengladbach 0** Att: 24,000

**Mainz 0**
**Hanover 0** Att: 27,647

Friday, September 12
**Bayer Leverkusen 3** (Jedvaj 17, Calhanoglu 63, Son 73)
**Werder Bremen 3** (Bartels 45, Di Santo 60, Prodl 85) Att: 30,210

Saturday, September 13
**Bayern Munich 2** (Gotze 27, Ribery 85)
**Stuttgart 0** Att: 71,000

**Borussia Dortmund 3** (Ramos 34, Kagawa 41, Aubameyang 78)
**Freiburg 1** (Sorg 90) Att: 80,200

**Hertha Berlin 1** (Ronny pen 86)
**Mainz 3** (Okazaki 36, 90+1, Allagui 70) Att: 42,069

**Hoffenheim 1** (Modeste 55)
**Wolfsburg 1** (Olic 89) Att: 23,813

**Monchengladbach 4** (Hahn 17, 50, Kruse 56, Raffael 79)
**Schalke 1** (Choupo-Moting pen 52) Att: 54,010

**Paderborn 0**
**Cologne 0** Att: 14,993

Sunday, September 14
**Eintracht Frankfurt 0**
**Augsburg 1** (Bobadilla 49) Att: 43,500

**Hanover 2** (Andreasen 13, Sobiech 24)
**Hamburg 0** Att: 49,000

Friday, September 19
**Freiburg 2** (Kempf 30, Klaus 79)
**Hertha Berlin 2** (Ronny 36, 90+6) Att: 23,600

Saturday, September 20
**Augsburg 4** (Baier 14, Verhaegh pen 45+3, Werner 77, Matavz 90+3)
**Werder Bremen 2** (Selke 3, Di Santo pen 56)
Att: 29,044

**Hamburg 0**
**Bayern Munich 0** Att: 57,000

**Mainz 2** (Okazaki 66, Ginter og 74)
**Borussia Dortmund 0** Att: 34,000

**Paderborn 2** (Kachunga 71, Stoppelkamp 90+3)
**Hanover 0** Att: 15,000

**Schalke 2** (Choupo-Moting pen 40, Draxler 50)
**Eintracht Frankfurt 2** (Meier 15, Russ 24)
Att: 61,798

**Stuttgart 0**
**Hoffenheim 2** (Modeste 15, Elyounoussi 84)
Att: 44,000

Sunday, September 21
**Cologne 0**
**Monchengladbach 0** Att: 50,000

**Wolfsburg 4** (Rodriguez pen 8, 63, Vieirinha 45, Hunt 81)
**Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Drmic 29) Att: 27,811

Tuesday, September 23
**Bayern Munich 4** (Gotze 8, 78, Lewandowski 14, Muller 85)
**Paderborn 0** Att: 71,000

**Eintracht Frankfurt 2** (Meier 45+1, Seferovic 82)
**Mainz 2** (Hofmann 41, Okazaki 44) Att: 44,100

**Hoffenheim 3** (Elyounoussi 44, Rudy 63, Vestergaard 90+3)
**Freiburg 3** (Frantz 31, 33, Darida pen 75)
Att: 24,872

**Werder Bremen 0**
**Schalke 3** (Meyer 48, Neustadter 51, Barnetta 85)
Att: 40,139

Wednesday, September 24
**Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Son 33)
**Augsburg 0** Att: 23,081

**Borussia Dortmund 2** (Aubameyang 73, Immobile 86)
**Stuttgart 2** (Didavi 48, 68) Att: 79,500

**Hanover 1** (Joselu 6)
**Cologne 0** Att: 39,400

**Hertha Berlin 1** (Kalou 35)
**Wolfsburg 0** Att: 35,847

**Monchengladbach 1** (Kruse 25)
**Hamburg 0** Att: 44,175

GERMANY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bayern | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| Leverkusen | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 10 |
| Hanover | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 10 |
| Hoffenheim | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 9 |
| Mainz | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 9 |
| M'gladbach | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| Paderborn | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| Dortmund | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| Cologne | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Eintracht | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Augsburg | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| Wolfsburg | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| Schalke | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| Hertha | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 5 |
| Freiburg | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| Werder | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 3 |
| Stuttgart | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| Hamburg | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 2 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

Leading goalscorers
5 Shinji Okazaki (Mainz)
3 Franco Di Santo (Werder Bremen)
Tarik Elyounoussi (Hoffenheim)
Mario Gotze (Bayern Munich)
Elias Kachunga (Paderborn)
Ronny (Hertha Berlin)
Julian Schieber (Hertha Berlin)

## GREECE

Aug 30: Kalloni 2 Ergotelis 0; Panthrakikos 1 Giannina 1; Panetolikos 1 Olympiakos 1.
Aug 31: Platanias 0 PAOK 4; Asteras 2 Levadiakos 1; Niki 0 Atromitos 1; Xanthi 0 Kerkyra 0; Panathinaikos 2 Panionios 1.
Sep 1: OFI 0 Veria 1.
Sep 13: Veria 2 Kerkyra 1; PAOK 3 Niki 0; Olympiakos 3 OFI 0.
Sep 14: Panionios 2 Asteras 1; Giannina 2 Xanthi 2; Atromitos 0 Panetolikos 0; Levadiakos 1 Panthrakikos 1; Kalloni 1 Panathinaikos 0.
Sep 15: Ergotelis 0 Platanias 3.
Sep 20: Xanthi 2 Levadiakos 0; OFI 1 Atromitos 0; Olympiakos 3 Veria 0.
Sep 21: Asteras 1 Kalloni 0; Kerkyra 2 Giannina 0; Panthrakikos 1 Panionios 0; Niki 1 Ergotelis 4; Platanias 2 Panathinaikos 3.
Sep 22: Panetolikos 0 PAOK 1.

GREECE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Olympiakos | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 10 |
| PAOK | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| Veria | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 9 |
| Kerkyra | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| Kalloni | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| Panathinaikos | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| Atromitos | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| Panionios | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Asteras | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| OFI | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Xanthi | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Giannina | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Panthrakikos | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Ergotelis | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| Platanias | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| Panetolikos | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Levadiakos | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| Niki | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 0 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

games of the season and keep a clean sheet.

Internazionale's 7-0 victory over Sassuolo was the club's biggest home win since 1966. The scoreline – which was two goals short of the club's biggest-ever win in Serie A, which was a 9-0 thrashing of Casale in 1933 – was a repeat of the score in last season's away game against the same opponents.

ROMANIA

### Europa League record

Claudiu Keseru set a new Europa League record with a hat-trick in 11 minutes as Steaua Bucharest beat AaB 6-0. However, hardly anyone saw his feat as the game was played behind closed doors as a punishment for racist behaviour by fans in a previous game.

Quick hat-trick...Keseru

RUSSIA

### Samba's protest

Dynamo Moscow defender Christopher Samba refused to come out for the second half of his side's 3-1 derby win against Torpedo Moscow after being racially abused by opposition fans.

Despite initial reports that the 30-year-old centre-half's substitution was due to a calf injury, Dynamo vice-president Gennady Soloviev later said: "I can confirm Samba felt offended with Torpedo fans and didn't want to go on the pitch for the second half. That's why he was replaced."

Samba has received racist abuse in the past while playing in Russia. In January 2013 a fan threw a banana on the pitch while the Congo international was playing for Anzhi.

## HOLLAND

Aug 29: Go Ahead Eagles 1 Willem II 0.
Aug 30: Cambuur 3 Den Haag 2; Excelsior 3 Heracles 1; Dordrecht 1 AZ 3; Heerenveen 3 Utrecht 1.
Aug 31: PSV 2 Vitesse 0; Groningen 2 Ajax 0; NAC 3 Zwolle 1; Twente 0 Feyenoord 0.
Sep 13: Ajax 2 Heracles 1; Twente 2 Go Ahead Eagles 1; AZ 0 Heerenveen 1; Feyenoord 1 Willem II 2; Zwolle 3 PSV 1.
Sep 14: Utrecht 0 Den Haag 0; Cambuur 3 Groningen 0; Vitesse 3 Excelsior 1; Dordrecht 0 NAC 1.
Sep 19: Willem II 2 NAC 1.
Sep 20: Excelsior 1 Dordrecht 1; Den Haag 1 Go Ahead Eagles 1; Vitesse 1 Heerenveen 1.
Sep 21: Heracles 1 Twente 4; Feyenoord 0 Ajax 1; PSV 4 Cambuur 0; AZ 1 Zwolle 0; Utrecht 1 Groningen 0.

HOLLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PSV | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 6 | 15 |
| Ajax | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 8 | 12 |
| Zwolle | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 12 |
| Heerenveen | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 11 |
| Cambuur | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 11 |
| Twente | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 10 |
| Utrecht | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 10 |
| Willem II | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| AZ | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Groningen | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| Excelsior | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 8 |
| NAC | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 8 |
| Den Haag | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| Go Ahead | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| Feyenoord | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Dordrecht | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| Vitesse | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 5 |
| Heracles | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 16 | 0 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd & 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

## ITALY

**Saturday, August 30**

**Chievo 0**
**Juventus 1** (Biraghi og 6) Att: 25,000

**Roma 2** (Nainggolan 28, Gervinho 90+3)
**Fiorentina 0** Att: 44,353

**Sunday, August 31**

**Atalanta 0**
**Verona 0** Att: 14,925

**Cesena 1** (Rodriguez 38)
**Parma 0** Att: 14,415

**Genoa 1** (Pinilla 40)
**Napoli 2** (Callejon 3, De Guzman 90+5) Att: 21,963

**Milan 3** (Honda 7, Muntari 56, Menez pen 64)
**Lazio 1** (Alex og 67) Att: 36,674

**Palermo 1** (Dybala 7)
**Sampdoria 1** (Gastaldello 90+1) Att: 17,064

**Sassuolo 1** (Zaza 42)
**Cagliari 1** (Sau 44) Att: 11,292

**Torino 0**
**Internazionale 0** Att: 25,824

**Udinese 2** (Di Natale 57, 62)
**Empoli 0** Att: 7,889

**Saturday, September 13**

**Empoli 0**
**Roma 1** (Sepe og 45+1) Att: 11,113

**Juventus 2** (Tevez 8, Marchisio 75)
**Udinese 0** Att: 38,217

**Sunday, September 14**

**Cagliari 1** (Cossu 85)
**Atalanta 2** (Estigarribia 4, Boakye 67) Att: 9,100

**Fiorentina 0**
**Genoa 0** Att: 34,058

**Internazionale 7** (Icardi 4, 30, 53, Kovacic 21, Osvaldo 43, 72, Guarin 74)
**Sassuolo 0** Att: 34,549

**Lazio 3** (Candreva 19, Parolo 56, Mauri 90)
**Cesena 0** Att: 31,200

**Napoli 0**
**Chievo 1** (Lopez 49) Att: 35,251

**Parma 4** (Cassano 27, Felipe 51, Lucarelli 73, De Sciglio og 89)
**Milan 5** (Bonaventura 25, Honda 37, Menez pen 45, 79, De Jong 68) Att: 14,264

**Sampdoria 2** (Gabbiadini 34, Okaka Chuka 79)
**Torino 0** Att: 21,180

**Monday, September 15**

**Verona 2** (Toni pen 41, Pisano og 77)
**Palermo 1** (Vazquez 18) Att: 18,304

**Saturday, September 20**

**Cesena 2** (Marilungo 30, Defrel 32)
**Empoli 2** (Tavano pen 55, Rugani 72) Att: 14,093

**Milan 0**
**Juventus 1** (Tevez 71) Att: 78,681

**Sunday, September 21**

**Atalanta 0**
**Fiorentina 1** (Kurtic 58) Att: 15,406

**Chievo 2** (Izco 4, Paloschi 82)
**Parma 3** (Cassano 65, 77, Coda 75) Att: 5,000

**Genoa 1** (Pinilla 87)
**Lazio 0** Att: 18,009

**Palermo 1** (Vazquez 3)
**Internazionale 1** (Kovacic 42) Att: 18,292

**Roma 2** (Destro 11, Florenzi 13)
**Cagliari 0** Att: 40,977

**Sassuolo 0**
**Sampdoria 0** Att: 12,004

**Torino 0**
**Verona 1** (Ionita 66) Att: 13,405

**Udinese 1** (Danilo 70)
**Napoli 0** Att: 8,833

**Tuesday, September 23**

**Empoli 2** (Tonelli 13, Pucciarelli 21)
**Milan 2** (Fernando Torres 43, Honda 57) Att: 12,619

**Wednesday, September 24**

**Cagliari 1** (Cossu 11)
**Torino 2** (Glik 21, Quagliarella 29) Att: 9,400

**Fiorentina 0**
**Sassuolo 0** Att: 28,175

**Internazionale 2** (Osvaldo 40, Hernanes 87)
**Atalanta 0** Att: 29,535

**Juventus 3** (Vidal pen 18, 64, Lichtsteiner 85)
**Cesena 0** Att: 36,027

**Napoli 3** (Koulibaly 2, Zapata 11, Callejon 45+1)
**Palermo 3** (Belotti 18, 61, Vazquez 24) Att: 18,521

**Parma 1** (De Ceglie 56)
**Roma 2** (Ljajic 27, Pjanic 88) Att: 12,657

**Sampdoria 2** (Gastaldello 45, Romagnoli 80)
**Chievo 1** (Paloschi 90) Att: 19,346

**Verona 2** (Tachtsidis 52, Ionita 64)
**Genoa 2** (Matri 34, 48) Att: 16,785

**Thursday, September 25**

**Lazio 0**
**Udinese 1** (Thereau 26) Att: 26,919

ITALY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juventus | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 12 |
| Roma | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 12 |
| Udinese | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| Internazionale | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 8 |
| Sampdoria | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| Verona | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Milan | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| Genoa | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Fiorentina | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Napoli | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| Atalanta | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Torino | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Cesena | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| Palermo | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| Lazio | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Parma | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 3 |
| Chievo | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Sassuolo | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| Empoli | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| Cagliari | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 1 |

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

**Leading goalscorers**

3 Antonio Cassano (Parma)
Keisuke Honda (Milan)
Mauro Icardi (Internazionale)
Jeremy Menez (Milan)
Pablo Osvaldo (Internazionale)
Franco Vazquez (Palermo)

## NORWAY

Aug 30: Sarpsborg 2 Odd 2; Aalesund 2 Stromsgodset 0; Bodo/Glimt 4 Valerenga 3.
Aug 31: Lillestrom 2 Haugesund 0; Stabaek 1 Sandnes Ulf 1; Start 3 Sogndal 2; Viking 1 Rosenborg 2; Brann 0 Molde 1.
Sep 12: Rosenborg 3 Bodo/Glimt 1.
Sep 13: Odd 4 Viking 1; Stromsgodset 1 Brann 4.
Sep 14: Sandnes Ulf 0 Sarpsborg 2; Valerenga 4 Haugesund 1; Sogndal 1 Aalesund 1; Start 2 Stabaek 3; Molde 3 Lillestrom 2.
Sep 19: Brann 1 Sandnes Ulf 1.
Sep 20: Bodo/Glimt 0 Stromsgodset 4; Valerenga 0 Molde 2.
Sep 21: Viking 0 Start 1; Aalesund 3 Stabaek 0; Lillestrom 2 Odd 0; Sarpsborg 3 Sogndal 1; Haugesund 2 Rosenborg 1.

NORWAY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Molde | 24 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 54 | 18 | 59 |
| Odd | 24 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 40 | 23 | 48 |
| Rosenborg | 24 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 48 | 39 | 42 |
| Lillestrom | 24 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 38 | 25 | 40 |
| Stromsgodset | 24 | 12 | 4 | 8 | 39 | 33 | 40 |
| Valerenga | 24 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 51 | 41 | 36 |
| Viking | 24 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 35 | 32 | 32 |
| Sarpsborg | 24 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 34 | 40 | 32 |
| Stabaek | 24 | 9 | 3 | 12 | 37 | 48 | 30 |
| Aalesund | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 28 | 30 | 28 |
| Start | 24 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 37 | 48 | 28 |
| Bodo/Glimt | 24 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 35 | 46 | 28 |
| Haugesund | 24 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 32 | 39 | 24 |
| Brann | 24 | 6 | 5 | 13 | 33 | 41 | 23 |
| Sogndal | 24 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 25 | 40 | 21 |
| Sandnes Ulf | 24 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 19 | 42 | 15 |

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

## POLAND

**Regular season**

Aug 29: Piast 3 Zawisza 0; Wisla 1 Belchatow 0.
Aug 30: Gornik Leczna 4 Pogon 2; Slask 2 Gornik Zabrze 0; Korona 0 Jagiellonia 3.
Aug 31: Lechia 3 Ruch 3; Podbeskidzie 2 Legia 1; Lech 1 Cracovia 1.
Sep 12: Zawisza 2 Wisla 4; Pogon 1 Ruch 1.
Sep 13: Cracovia 2 Gornik Leczna 1; Jagiellonia 1 Lech 0; Legia 4 Slask 3.
Sep 14: Gornik Z'rze 1 Piast 2; Belchatow 1 Lechia 1.
Sep 15: Korona 2 Podbeskidzie 1.
Sep 19: Slask 1 Korona 0; Lechia 0 Pogon 1.
Sep 20: Piast 4 Cracovia 2; Podbeskidzie 0 Gornik Zabrze 3; Lech 6 Zawisza 2.
Sep 21: Ruch 0 Belchatow 1; Wisla 0 Legia 3.
Sep 22: Gornik Leczna 0 Jagiellonia 0.

POLAND – REGULAR

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Legia | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 8 | 19 |
| Wisla | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 12 | 18 |
| Gornik Zabrze | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 6 | 17 |
| Belchatow | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 16 |
| Slask | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 16 |
| Jagiellonia | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Lech | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 17 | 10 | 13 |
| Podbeskidzie | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 13 |
| Pogon | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 14 | 13 |
| Lechia | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 13 | 12 |
| Piast | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| Gornik Leczna | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 16 | 12 |
| Cracovia | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 17 | 8 |
| Ruch | 9 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 7 |
| Korona | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 18 | 4 |
| Zawisza | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 11 | 27 | 3 |

30-round regular season (15x2); top 8 will form championship group, bottom 8 will form relegation group (from which the bottom 2 will go down)

## PORTUGAL

Aug 29: Academica 1 Setubal 1.
Aug 30: Belenenses 0 Guimaraes 3; Braga 2 Estoril 1.
Aug 31: Gil Vicente 1 Maritimo 2; Penafiel 0 Pacos de Ferreira 1; Porto 3 Moreirense 0; Nacional 2 Arouca 0; Benfica 1 Sporting 1.
Sep 1: Rio Ave 4 Boavista 0.
Sep 12: Setubal 0 Benfica 5.
Sep 13: Moreirense 1 Rio Ave 1; Arouca 1 Braga 0; Sporting 1 Belenenses 1.
Sep 14: Boavista 1 Academica 0; Maritimo 2 Penafiel 0; Guimaraes 1 Porto 1; Pacos de Ferreira 1 Gil Vicente 1; Estoril 2 Nacional 1.

Proud...Messi, in Barcelona's third kit, takes on Athletic Bilbao

SPAIN

### Barca's Catalan colours

For the first time in their 115-year history, Barcelona wore the colours of the Catalan flag in a home fixture as they beat Athletic Bilbao 2-0 in La Liga. The club wore their red-and-gold-striped third strip to commemorate the region's loss of sovereignty 300 years ago.

SWEDEN

### Support for Malmo

This season's Allsvenskan programme will end a day early, on November 1, in order to give Malmo more time to prepare for their Champions League tie at home to Atletico Madrid the following week.

The defending league champions, who are currently top of the

Helping hand...Malmo

**Sep 19:** Guimaraes 1 Pacos de Ferreira 1.
**Sep 20:** Penafiel 2 Setubal 0; Nacional 1 Braga 1.
**Sep 21:** Belenenses 1 Maritimo 0; Rio Ave 1 Arouca 2; Benfica 3 Moreirense 1; Gil Vicente 0 Sporting 4; Porto 0 Boavista 0.
**Sep 22:** Academica 2 Estoril 2.

**PORTUGAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benfica | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 13 |
| Guimaraes | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 11 |
| Porto | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 11 |
| Rio Ave | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 4 | 10 |
| Belenenses | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 10 |
| Sporting | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| Maritimo | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| Braga | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| Arouca | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Pacos Ferreira | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Estoril | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 5 |
| Moreirense | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| Nacional | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| Setubal | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 4 |
| Boavista | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| Academica | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| Penafiel | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 3 |
| Gil Vicente | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 1 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

**Aug 29:** Dundalk 3 Bohemians 2; Derry 0 St Patrick's 1; Limerick 0 Drogheda 3; Bray 2 UCD 0; Athlone 2 Cork 2; Shamrock 1 Sligo 0.
**Sep 5:** St Patrick's 1 Dundalk 0; Drogheda 1 Athlone 1; UCD 1 Limerick 3; Derry 2 Sligo 1; Cork 1 Shamrock 0; Bohemians 2 Bray 1.
**Sep 8:** Dundalk 5 Derry 0; Sligo 3 Bohemians 2.
**Sep 19:** Athlone 0 Bohemians 0; Bray 2 St Patrick's 4.
**Sep 20:** Sligo 0 Drogheda 2.
**Sep 21:** Limerick 0 Cork 1.
**Sep 23:** Bohemians 1 Shamrock 1.

**REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dundalk | 28 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 65 | 23 | 63 |
| Cork | 28 | 18 | 6 | 4 | 42 | 21 | 60 |
| St Patrick's | 28 | 16 | 7 | 5 | 55 | 30 | 55 |
| Shamrock | 27 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 35 | 25 | 48 |
| Sligo | 28 | 11 | 6 | 11 | 36 | 27 | 39 |
| Derry | 28 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 38 | 34 | 36 |
| Drogheda | 28 | 10 | 5 | 13 | 36 | 54 | 35 |
| Bohemians | 28 | 7 | 12 | 9 | 35 | 36 | 33 |
| Limerick | 28 | 9 | 5 | 14 | 30 | 39 | 32 |
| Bray | 28 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 24 | 56 | 22 |
| UCD | 27 | 4 | 7 | 16 | 25 | 58 | 19 |
| Athlone | 28 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 29 | 47 | 17 |

33-round season (11x3); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

## ROMANIA

**Aug 29:** Gaz Metan 0 Pandurii 2; Ceahlaul 2 Concordia 0.
**Aug 30:** Dinamo 2 Brasov 1; Viitorul 0 Steaua 1.
**Aug 31:** Targu Mures 2 Botosani 1; Astra 5 CS Universitatea 0; Petrolul 1 CFR 2.
**Sep 1:** Otelul 2 Rapid 0; Universitatea Cluj 2 CSM Studentesc 0.
**Sep 12:** Brasov 4 Concordia 1; Steaua 3 Gaz Metan 1.
**Sep 13:** Viitorul 2 Ceahlaul 0; CFR 4 Astra 1.
**Sep 14:** CSM Studentesc 2 Targu Mures 2; Rapid 2 Universitatea Cluj 1; Botosani 3 Dinamo 2.
**Sep 15:** CS Universitatea 1 Otelul 0; Pandurii 1 Petrolul 1.
**Sep 19:** Gaz Metan 3 Viitorul 1; Targu Mures 1 Rapid 0.
**Sep 20:** Concordia 3 Botosani 3; Otelul 0 CFR 1; Dinamo 1 CSM Studentesc 0.
**Sep 21:** Ceahlaul 2 Brasov 2; Astra 2 Pandurii 1; Petrolul 2 Steaua 3.
**Sep 22:** Universitatea Cluj 0 CS Universitatea 2.

**ROMANIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Steaua | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 6 | 21 |
| CFR | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 4 | 19 |
| Astra | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 7 | 18 |
| Dinamo | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 15 |
| Targu Mures | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 7 | 15 |
| Petrolul | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 8 | 14 |
| Botosani | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 13 |
| Gaz Metan | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Ceahlaul | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 11 |
| Brasov | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 9 |
| Univ Cluj | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| Rapid | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 8 |
| CS Univ'tatea | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 8 |
| Pandurii | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 7 |
| Viitorul | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 6 |
| Otelul | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 5 |
| Concordia | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 16 | 5 |
| CSM Stud'tesc | 8 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 4 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom 6 will be relegated

## RUSSIA

**Aug 29:** Ural 0 Terek 1.
**Aug 30:** Mordovia 1 Torpedo 0; Amkar 2 Spartak 0; Arsenal 0 Kuban 1.
**Aug 31:** CSKA 6 Rostov 0; Rubin 1 Ufa 1; Lokomotiv 0 Zenit 1; Krasnodar 0 Dynamo 2.
**Sep 13:** CSKA 2 Arsenal 1; Lokomotiv 1 Mordovia 1; Zenit 3 Dynamo 2; Rostov 1 Rubin 2.
**Sep 14:** Spartak 3 Torpedo 1; Krasnodar 0 Ufa 2.
**Sep 15:** Amkar 2 Ural 1; Terek 0 Kuban 0.
**Sep 19:** Arsenal 0 Mordovia 1.
**Sep 20:** Ufa 0 Ural 1; Rostov 0 Zenit 5; Spartak 1 Terek 1; Kuban 2 Rubin 1.
**Sep 21:** CSKA 1 Lokomotiv 0.
**Sep 22:** Amkar 1 Krasnodar 2; Torpedo 1 Dynamo 3.

**RUSSIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zenit | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 4 | 24 |
| Dynamo | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 21 | 10 | 18 |
| CSKA | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 5 | 18 |
| Kuban | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 18 |
| Spartak | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 10 | 16 |
| Terek | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 15 |
| Krasnodar | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 6 | 14 |
| Mordovia | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 11 |
| Rubin | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 10 |
| Lokomotiv | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 9 |
| Ufa | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| Amkar | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 7 |
| Ural | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 4 |
| Torpedo | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 23 | 4 |
| Rostov | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 27 | 4 |
| Arsenal | 8 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 15 | 1 |

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd & 4th bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

## SCOTLAND

**Regular season**

**Aug 30:** Hamilton 4 Ross County 0; Inverness 2 Kilmarnock 0; Aberdeen 2 Partick 0; St Mirren 0 Dundee United 3; Motherwell 0 St Johnstone 1.
**Aug 31:** Dundee 1 Celtic 1.
**Sep 13:** Celtic 2 Aberdeen 1; St Johnstone 0 Dundee 1; Dundee United 2 Hamilton 2; Partick 3 Inverness 1; Ross County 1 Motherwell 2; Kilmarnock 2 St Mirren 1.
**Sep 19:** Partick 1 St Mirren 2.
**Sep 20:** Hamilton 0 Kilmarnock 0; Aberdeen 3 Ross County 0; Inverness 2 St Johnstone 1.
**Sep 21:** Dundee 1 Dundee United 4; Celtic 1 Motherwell 1.

**SCOTLAND – REGULAR**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dundee Utd | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 10 | 16 |
| Inverness | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 16 |
| Hamilton | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 14 |
| Celtic | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 5 | 11 |
| Kilmarnock | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 11 |
| Dundee | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 10 |
| Aberdeen | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| St Johnstone | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| Partick | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| Motherwell | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| St Mirren | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 3 |
| Ross County | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 19 | 0 |

33-round regular season (11x3); top 6 will form championship group, bottom 6 will form relegation group (from which the bottom team will go down and the 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs)

## SPAIN

**Friday, August 29**

**Getafe 1** (Alvaro 29)
**Almeria 0** Att: 6,000

**Valencia 3** (Paco Alcacer 31, Parejo 45, Piatti 56)
**Malaga 0** Att: 41,550

**Saturday, August 30**

**Athletic Bilbao 3** (Aduriz 32, Iturraspe 51, Muniain 76)
**Levante 0** Att: 48,300

**Atletico Madrid 2** (Miranda 11, Mandzukic 25)
**Eibar 1** (Abraham 33) Att: 48,000

**Cordoba 1** (Cartabia 60)
**Celta Vigo 1** (Orellana 52) Att: 15,982

**Espanyol 1** (Stuani 61)
**Sevilla 2** (Bacca 34, Iborra 57) Att: 16,490

**Sunday, August 31**

**Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Jose Rodriguez 7, Cuenca pen 90)
**Rayo Vallecano 2** (Bueno 40, 73) Att: 18,054

**Elche 1** (Lomban 90+1)
**Granada 1** (Fran Rico 81) Att: 20,025

**Real Sociedad 4** (Inigo Martinez 35, Zurutuza 41, 65, Vela 75)
**Real Madrid 2** (Sergio Ramos 5, Bale 11) Att: 27,879

**Villarreal 0**
**Barcelona 1** (Sandro 82) Att: 21,200

**Friday, September 12**

**Almeria 1** (Edgar Mendez 12)
**Cordoba 1** (Cartabia 19) Att: 10,682

**Saturday, September 13**

**Barcelona 2** (Neymar 79, 84)
**Athletic Bilbao 0** Att: 80,181

**Celta Vigo 2** (Orellana 28, Larrivey 48)
**Real Sociedad 2** (Agirretxe 69, Jonny og 90+2) Att: 19,385

**Malaga 0**
**Levante 0** Att: 20,000

**Real Madrid 1** (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 26)
**Atletico Madrid 2** (Tiago 10, Arda 76) Att: 85,253

**Sunday, September 14**

**Granada 0**
**Villarreal 0** Att: 21,000

**Rayo Vallecano 2** (Kakuta 45, Bueno pen 90+1)
**Elche 3** (Edu Albacar 37, Jonathas 55, Mosquera 69) Att: 9,521

**Sevilla 2** (Bacca pen 44, Aleix Vidal 87)
**Getafe 0** Att: 34,600

**Valencia 3** (Piatti 7, Parejo 63, Paco Alcacer 73)
**Espanyol 1** (Sergio Garcia pen 90) Att: 38,500

**Monday, September 15**

**Eibar 0**
**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Juan Dominguez 13) Att: 4,522

**Friday, September 19**

**Elche 0**
**Eibar 2** (Dani Garcia 3, Albentosa 42) Att: 22,474

**Saturday, September 20**

**Athletic Bilbao 0**
**Granada 1** (Cordoba 40) Att: 33,000

**Atletico Madrid 2** (Miranda 31, Godin 41)
**Celta Vigo 2** (Hernandez 19, Nolito pen 53) Att: 47,000

**Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Medunjanin pen 51, Toche 84)
**Real Madrid 8** (Cristiano Ronaldo 29, 41, 78, Rodriguez 36, Bale 66, 74, Hernandez 88, 90+2) Att: 27,685

**Espanyol 2** (Caicedo 16, Stuani 88)
**Malaga 2** (Camacho 53, Duda 90+3) Att: 12,600

**Sunday, September 21**

**Cordoba 1** (Borja 83)
**Sevilla 3** (Bacca 8, pen 88, Mbia 73) Att: 17,023

**Levante 0**
**Barcelona 5** (Neymar 34, Rakitic 44, Sandro 57, Pedro 64, Messi 77) Att: 22,177

**Real Sociedad 1** (Castro 85)
**Almeria 2** (De la Bella og 32, Dos Santos 51) Att: 18,000

**Villarreal 4** (Espinosa 33, Musacchio 62, Vietto 74, 87)
**Rayo Vallecano 2** (Kakuta 22, Bueno 29) Att: 15,050

**Monday, September 22**

**Getafe 0**
**Valencia 3** (Paco Alcacer 7, Andre Gomes 20, Rodrigo pen 72) Att: 6,000

**Tuesday, September 23**

**Celta Vigo 2** (Nolito 4, Larrivey 72)
**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Cuenca 55) Att: 23,811

domestic table, are the first Swedish side to play in the group stage of the Champions League since the 2000-01 campaign.

SWITZERLAND

### Fans sicken keeper

Muri goalkeeper Reto Felder was left "feeling sick" and considering legal action after fans of opponents Baden urinated in his water bottle during their fourth-tier game.

"That is just primitive filth," said the 34-year-old Felder. "I took one sip and realised that it was warm, but thought that it was because of the sun. But by the second sip I realised that something was wrong."

A spokesperson for the Swiss FA said: "We take this incident very seriously. We are at the moment waiting to see what decision FC Baden arrives at."

ARGENTINA

### Keeper scores twice

Independiente goalkeeper Diego Rodriguez scored twice as his side beat Quilmes 5-3 in the Primera Division. The 25-year-old equalised with a penalty after Brian Sarmiento had given Quilmes an early lead and then put his side on their way to victory with a second spot-kick.

BRAZIL

### Expelled from cup

Gremio were expelled from the Brazilian Cup after fans racially abused Santos keeper Aranha. Gremio, who are coached by Luiz Felipe Scolari, lost 2-0 in the last-16 game.

Abused...keeper Aranha

**Real Madrid 5** (Bale 20, Cristiano Ronaldo pen 28, 32, pen 80, 90+2)
**Elche 1** (Edu Albacar pen 15) Att: 63,634

Wednesday, September 24

**Almeria 0**
**Atletico Madrid 1** (Miranda 60) Att: 11,863

**Eibar 1** (Arruabarrena 8)
**Villarreal 1** (Gerard Moreno 71) Att: 4,231

**Granada 0**
**Levante 1** (Ruben Garcia 46) Att: 15,731

**Malaga 0**
**Barcelona 0** Att: 24,820

**Rayo Vallecano 2** (Leo Baptistao 39, 89)
**Athletic Bilbao 1** (Aduriz 20) Att: 11,040

**Sevilla 1** (Deulofeu 18)
**Real Sociedad 0** Att: 29,456

Thursday, September 25

**Espanyol 2** (Sergio Garcia 65, Stuani 82)
**Getafe 0** Att: 14,285

**Valencia 3** (Paco Alcacer 22, Gaya 27, Feghouli 73)
**Cordoba 0** Att: 36,000

SPAIN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valencia | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 13 |
| Barcelona | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 13 |
| Sevilla | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 13 |
| Atletico | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Real Madrid | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 9 |
| Celta | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| Villarreal | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| Granada | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| Eibar | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| Malaga | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| Espanyol | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| Almeria | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Rayo | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 5 |
| Real Sociedad | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| Deportivo | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 4 |
| Elche | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 4 |
| Levante | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 4 |
| Athletic | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Getafe | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 3 |
| Cordoba | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 2 |

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers

9 Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
4 Carlos Bacca (Sevilla)
Gareth Bale (Real Madrid)
Alberto Bueno (Rayo Vallecano)
Paco Alcacer (Valencia)

## SWEDEN

Aug 29: Helsingborg 1 Halmstad 4; Orebro 3 Brommapojkarna 1.
Aug 30: Hacken 1 Mjallby 1; Gefle 0 Atvidaberg 1.
Aug 31: Gothenburg 2 Kalmar 0; Norrkoping 2 AIK 4; Djurgarden 2 Malmo 0; Elfsborg 1 Falkenberg 0.
Sep 13: Hacken 3 Malmo 3.
Sep 14: Halmstad 1 Mjallby 2; Gefle 3 Falkenberg 1; Djurgarden 0 Atvidaberg 1; Elfsborg 0 Gothenburg 0.
Sep 15: Norrkoping 3 Brommapojkarna 1; Orebro 2 Kalmar 0; Helsingborg 3 AIK 1.
Sep 19: Gothenburg 4 Gefle 0.
Sep 20: Brommapojkarna 1 Hacken 5; Falkenberg 1 Orebro 3.
Sep 21: Mjallby 1 Elfsborg 0; Kalmar 0 Djurgarden 4; AIK 0 Halmstad 1; Malmo 1 Helsingborg 1.
Sep 22: Atvidaberg 2 Norrkoping 2.
Sep 24: Helsingborg 3 Brommapojkarna 1; Halmstad 0 Malmo 1; Elfsborg 1 Gefle 0; Djurgarden 1 Falkenberg 0; Orebro 3 Gothenburg 4; Mjallby 1 AIK 0.
Sep 25: Hacken 0 Atvidaberg 2; Norrkoping 0 Kalmar 0.

SWEDEN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Malmo | 25 | 15 | 8 | 2 | 48 | 24 | 53 |
| Elfsborg | 25 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 35 | 23 | 45 |
| Gothenburg | 25 | 11 | 11 | 3 | 45 | 27 | 44 |
| AIK | 25 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 47 | 36 | 44 |
| Hacken | 25 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 47 | 32 | 40 |
| Djurgarden | 25 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 43 | 25 | 39 |
| Kalmar | 25 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 29 | 34 | 35 |
| Orebro | 25 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 39 | 38 | 34 |
| Atvidaberg | 25 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 30 | 37 | 34 |
| Helsingborg | 25 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 34 | 35 | 33 |
| Halmstad | 25 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 32 | 41 | 30 |
| Mjallby | 25 | 8 | 4 | 13 | 26 | 37 | 28 |
| Gefle | 25 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 27 | 33 | 26 |
| Norrkoping | 25 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 29 | 44 | 26 |
| Falkenberg | 25 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 28 | 41 | 23 |
| Bromm'karna | 25 | 1 | 6 | 18 | 27 | 59 | 9 |

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

## SWITZERLAND

Aug 30: Thun 2 Sion 1; Lucerne 1 Aarau 1.
Aug 31: Grasshopper 0 Vaduz 1; St Gallen 0 Zurich 2; Basle 3 Young Boys 1.
Sep 13: Grasshopper 3 Basle 1; Aarau 2 Thun 1.
Sep 14: Young Boys 3 Lucerne 2; Vaduz 2 St Gallen 2; Zurich 4 Sion 1.
Sep 23: Basle 3 Vaduz 1; Thun 3 Lucerne 2.
Sep 24: St Gallen 3 Grasshopper 0; Zurich 0 Aarau 0; Sion 0 Young Boys 1.

SWITZERLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Basle | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 22 | 13 | 21 |
| Zurich | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 17 | 9 | 20 |
| Thun | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 14 | 16 |
| Young Boys | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 11 | 15 |
| St Gallen | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 13 | 12 |
| Aarau | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 11 |
| Sion | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 8 |
| Grasshopper | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 15 | 8 |
| Vaduz | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 15 | 6 |
| Lucerne | 9 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 16 | 5 |

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

## TURKEY

Aug 29: Rizespor 1 Genclerbirligi 1; Balikesirspor 1 Akhisar 2.
Aug 30: Eskisehirspor 2 Konyaspor 1; Bursaspor 0 Galatasaray 2; Basaksehir 1 Kasimpasa 1; Mersin 0 Besiktas 1.
Aug 31: Sivasspor 1 Gaziantepspor 2; Kayseri Erciyesspor 0 Trabzonspor 0; Fenerbahce 3 Karabukspor 2.
Sep 13: Genclerbirligi 1 Bursaspor 2; Karabukspor 0 Basaksehir 0; Galatasaray 0 Eskisehirspor 0; Konyaspor 2 Balikesirspor 0.
Sep 14: Kasimpasa 2 Mersin 2; Trabzonspor 0 Fenerbahce 0; Gaziantepspor 2 Kayseri Erciyesspor 2.
Sep 15: Akhisar 2 Sivasspor 2; Besiktas 1 Rizespor 1.
Sep 19: Eskisehirspor 0 Genclerbirligi 2.
Sep 20: Kayseri Erciyesspor 1 Akhisar 2; Mersin 2 Rizespor 0; Balikesirspor 2 Galatasaray 0.
Sep 21: Kasimpasa 2 Karabukspor 1; Sivasspor 0 Konyaspor 0; Fenerbahce 1 Gaziantepspor 0.
Sep 22: Basaksehir 1 Trabzonspor 1; Bursaspor 0 Besiktas 1.

TURKEY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Akhisar | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| Fenerbahce | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| Besiktas | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| Kasimpasa | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Genclerbirligi | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Mersin | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Konyaspor | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Gaziantepspor | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Galatasaray | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Eskisehirspor | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Basaksehir | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Trabzonspor | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Balikesirspor | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Bursaspor | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| K Erciyesspor | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Sivasspor | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Rizespor | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Karabukspor | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

### SUPER CUP

*Aug 25 - Manisa (19 Mayis)*
**Fenerbahce 0**
**Galatasaray 0**
*Aet. Fenerbahce 3-2 on pens*
**Ref:** Abitoglu

## UKRAINE

Aug 29: Shakhtar 3 Illichivets 0.
Aug 30: Hoverla 0 Olimpik 1; Dynamo 2 Chornomorets 0.
Aug 31: Karpaty 1 Metalurh Zaporizhya 2; Metalurh Donetsk 1 Metalist 1; Dnipro 1 Vorskla 1; Zorya 1 Volyn 2.
Sep 13: Olimpik 3 Metalurh Donetsk 2; Metalist 2 Dnipro 5; Zorya 2 Dynamo 2; Chornomorets 0 Shakhtar 2.
Sep 14: Volyn 3 Metalurh Zaporizhya 0; Illichivets 2 Hoverla 2; Vorskla 2 Karpaty 0.
Sep 20: Metalurh Donetsk 3 Illichivets 0; Metalurh Zaporizhya 0 Vorskla 3.
Sep 21: Shakhtar 0 Zorya 1; Karpaty 3 Metalist 3; Hoverla 0 Chornomorets 0.
Sep 22: Dynamo 4 Volyn 1; Dnipro 5 Olimpik 0.

UKRAINE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dnipro | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 19 | 3 | 19 |
| Shakhtar | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 18 |
| Dynamo | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 17 |
| Vorskla | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 11 |
| Olimpik | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 16 | 10 |
| Chornomorets | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| Volyn | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| Metalurh D | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| Zorya | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Metalist | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 8 |
| Metalurh Z | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 7 |
| Karpaty | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 5 |
| Hoverla | 7 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| Illichivets | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 18 | 2 |

26-round season (13x2); bottom team will be relegated

# SOUTH AMERICA

## SUDAMERICANA CUP

### 2nd round

*1st legs - Aug 27-Sep 18; 2nd legs - Sep 3-25*
Atletico Nacional (Col) v General Diaz (Par) 0-2, 3-1 (agg 3-3, Atletico Nacional on away goals)
Barcelona (Ecu) v Libertad (Par) 1-0, 0-2 (agg 1-2)
Capiata (Par) v Caracas (Ven) 1-1, 3-1 (agg 4-2)
Criciuma (Bra) v Sao Paulo (Bra) 2-1, 0-2 (agg 2-3)
Emelec (Ecu) v River Plate (Uru) 2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2)
Fluminense (Bra) v Goias (Bra) 2-1, 0-1 (agg 2-2, Goias on away goals)
Gimnasia La Plata (Arg) v Estudiantes (Arg) 0-0, 0-1 (agg 0-1)
Godoy Cruz (Arg) v River Plate (Arg) 0-1, 0-2 (agg 0-3)
Huachipato (Chl) v Universidad Catolica (Ecu) 2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
Independiente (Ecu) v Cerro Porteno (Par) 1-0, 0-3 (agg 1-3)
Internacional (Bra) v Bahia (Bra) 0-2, 1-1 (agg 1-3)
Penarol (Uru) v Deportivo Cali (Col) 2-2, 1-0 (agg 3-2)
Rosario Central (Arg) v Boca Juniors (Arg) 1-1, 0-3 (agg 1-4)
Sport Recife (Bra) v Vitoria (Bra) 0-1, 1-2 (agg 1-3)
Universitario (Bol) v Cesar Vallejo (Per) 2-2, 0-3 (agg 2-5)

**Bye to 3rd round:** *Lanus (Arg; holders)*

## ARGENTINA

### Transitional tournament

Aug 30: Gimnasia LP 2 Godoy Cruz 0; Newell's 1 Estudiantes 0; Defensa y Justicia 1 Rosario 3.
Aug 31: Independiente 2 Racing 1; Belgrano 3 Rafaela 0; San Lorenzo 1 River Plate 3; Boca 3 Velez 1.
Sep 1: Lanus 1 Olimpo 1; Arsenal 1 Banfield 0; Tigre 0 Quilmes 0.
Sep 6: Rafaela 2 Gimnasia LP 0; Velez 0 Newell's 0; Banfield 0 Independiente 1; Estudiantes 3 Belgrano 1.
Sep 7: Rosario 1 San Lorenzo 1; Godoy Cruz 1 Defensa y Justicia 1; Racing 1 Lanus 3; River Plate 2 Tigre 0; Olimpo 0 Boca 1.
Sep 8: Quilmes 4 Arsenal 0.
Sep 12: Gimnasia LP 0 Defensa y Justicia 3.
Sep 13: San Lorenzo 2 Godoy Cruz 1; Tigre 4 Rosario 1; Rafaela 1 Estudiantes 0; Independiente 5 Quilmes 3.
Sep 14: Lanus 1 Banfield 0; Belgrano 1 Velez 0.
Sep 15: Newell's 1 Olimpo 0.
Sep 19: Quilmes 0 Lanus 2.
Sep 20: Estudiantes 0 Gimnasia LP 0; Velez 0 Rafaela 0; Olimpo 1 Belgrano 0.
Sep 21: River Plate 4 Independiente 1; Rosario 3 Arsenal 1; Banfield 1 Boca 1.
Sep 22: Defensa y Justicia 1 San Lorenzo 3; Racing 1 Newell's 1.
Sep 25: Boca 1 Racing 2; Arsenal 1 River Plate 1.

Wild life...Chelis

MEXICO

### Wolf masks in training

Jose Luis Sanchez Sola, the coach of Liga MX side Puebla who is commonly known as "Chelis", has been making his defenders wear wolf masks while training.

The eccentric idea was intended to instil in the players the need to fight for the ball like a pack of wolves. "It's sending the message with an anchor, and the anchor is the mask," explained Chelis. "Every time you go to play a ball, remember you're a wolf. You have to go for it, fight it, steal it and defend it."

ALGERIA

### Death brings ban

JS Kabylie have been banned from all continental competition for two years following the death of their striker Albert Ebosse.

Killed...Ebosse

The 24-year-old Cameroonian died after being hit by an object thrown by his own fans after an Algerian league match against USM Alger in September. Kabylie had qualified for next year's African Champions League after finishing second in the Algerian league.

The club have also been

CLUB FOOTBALL

**ARGENTINA – TRANSITIONAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| River Plate | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 20 | 4 | 20 |
| Lanus | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 6 | 16 |
| Newell's | 8 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 7 | 16 |
| Independiente | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 14 | 15 |
| Velez | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| Rosario | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 13 |
| Rafaela | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 13 |
| Racing | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Estudiantes | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 10 |
| San Lorenzo | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Boca | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 10 |
| Arsenal | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 10 |
| Belgrano | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| Godoy Cruz | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 8 |
| Def y Justicia | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 16 | 8 |
| Tigre | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Olimpo | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| Banfield | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 7 |
| Gimnasia LP | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| Quilmes | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 16 | 6 |

19-round tournament (19x1); no relegation at the end of this tournament

## BRAZIL

Aug 30: Cruzeiro 4 Chapecoense 2; Palmeiras 0 Internacional 1.
Aug 31: Figueirense 1 Sao Paulo 1; Coritiba 0 Mineiro 0; Corinthians 1 Fluminense 1; Sport 2 Criciuma 0; Botafogo 1 Santos 0; Goias 3 Paranaense 1; Gremio 1 Bahia 0; Vitoria 1 Flamengo 2.
Sep 6: Santos 3 Vitoria 1; Chapecoense 0 Goias 0; Flamengo 0 Gremio 1.
Sep 7: Criciuma 0 Corinthians 0; Mineiro 1 Botafogo 0; Sao Paulo 2 Sport 0; Fluminense 3 Cruzeiro 3; Internacional 2 Figueirense 3; Bahia 0 Coritiba 0; Paranaense 1 Palmeiras 1.
Sep 10: Palmeiras 1 Criciuma 0; Gremio 1 Paranaense 0; Figueirense 1 Fluminense 1; Sport 3 Santos 1; Coritiba 3 Chapecoense 0; Botafogo 2 Sao Paulo 4; Vitoria 2 Internacional 0; Goias 1 Flamengo 0.
Sep 11: Corinthians 1 Mineiro 0; Cruzeiro 2 Bahia 1.
Sep 13: Fluminense 3 Palmeiras 0; Chapecoense 3 Sport 1; Santos 2 Coritiba 1.
Sep 14: Flamengo 1 Corinthians 0; Sao Paulo 2 Cruzeiro 0; Bahia 3 Figueirense 0; Internacional 2 Botafogo 0; Paranaense 2 Vitoria 0; Mineiro 0 Gremio 0; Criciuma 1 Goias 0.
Sep 17: Cruzeiro 2 Paranaense 0; Vitoria 3 Fluminense 1; Sport 0 Internacional 0; Figueirense 1 Criciuma 1; Botafogo 2 Bahia 3; Palmeiras 2 Flamengo 2; Coritiba 3 Sao Paulo 1.
Sep 18: Corinthians 1 Chapecoense 1; Goias 2 Mineiro 3; Gremio 0 Santos 0.
Sep 20: Paranaense 0 Internacional 1; Criciuma 1 Botafogo 1.
Sep 21: Flamengo 1 Fluminense 1; Sport 1 Coritiba 0; Corinthians 3 Sao Paulo 2; Cruzeiro 2 Mineiro 3; Vitoria 2 Bahia 1; Santos 3 Figueirense 1; Gremio 1 Chapecoense 0; Goias 6 Palmeiras 0.
Sep 24: Coritiba 1 Cruzeiro 2; Internacional 3 Criciuma 0; Bahia 1 Sport 0; Chapecoense 3 Paranaense 0; Fluminense 0 Gremio 0; Sao Paulo 2 Flamengo 2; Figueirense 1 Corinthians 0.
Sep 25: Botafogo 1 Goias 0; Palmeiras 2 Vitoria 0; Mineiro 3 Santos 2.

**BRAZIL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cruzeiro | 24 | 16 | 4 | 4 | 49 | 25 | 52 |
| Internacional | 24 | 13 | 5 | 6 | 31 | 18 | 44 |
| Sao Paulo | 24 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 42 | 30 | 43 |
| Mineiro | 24 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 33 | 26 | 40 |
| Gremio | 24 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 19 | 14 | 40 |
| Corinthians | 24 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 29 | 17 | 40 |
| Fluminense | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 37 | 24 | 37 |
| Sport | 24 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 21 | 28 | 35 |
| Santos | 24 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 29 | 23 | 33 |
| Flamengo | 24 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 22 | 29 | 31 |
| Goias | 24 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 23 | 24 | 30 |
| Figueirense | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 21 | 33 | 29 |
| Paranaense | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 27 | 33 | 28 |
| Chapecoense | 24 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 20 | 26 | 27 |
| Botafogo | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 25 | 29 | 26 |
| Bahia | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 20 | 23 | 26 |
| Palmeiras | 24 | 7 | 4 | 13 | 20 | 36 | 25 |
| Vitoria | 24 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 24 | 33 | 24 |
| Coritiba | 24 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 22 | 24 | 23 |
| Criciuma | 24 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 31 | 23 |

38-round season (19x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

## PERU

**PERU – APERTURA – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juan Aurich (C) | 15 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 34 | 18 | 30 |
| Melgar | 15 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 23 | 17 | 25 |
| Cesar Vallejo | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 16 | 24 |
| Universitario | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 21 | 18 | 24 |
| Inti Gas | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 25 | 27 | 23 |
| Leon | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 18 | 19 | 22 |
| Universidad | 15 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 25 | 17 | 21 |
| U Comercio | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 12 | 21 |
| Garcilaso | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 19 | 19 | 20 |
| Cienciano[1] | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 20 | 18 | 19 |
| Alianza Lima | 15 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 16 | 14 | 19 |
| Cajamarca | 15 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 15 | 21 | 18 |
| S Cristal | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 26 | 19 | 17 |
| Huancayo | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 22 | 34 | 15 |
| San Simon | 15 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 30 | 14 |
| Los Caimanes | 15 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 31 | 12 |

No relegation after apertura

[1]*Cienciano received a 3pt penalty for having the worst record in the Torneo del Inca stage of the season*

# CONCACAF

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**Group 1**

Sep 17: Municipal (Gtm) 3 Real Espana (Hnd) 0.
Sep 24: Pachuca (Mex) 4 Municipal 1.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pachuca (Q) | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 9 |
| Municipal | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 12 | 4 |
| Real Espana | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 1 |

**Group 2**

Sep 18: Sporting Kansas City (USA) 3 Saprissa (CR) 1.
Sep 23: Sporting Kansas City 3 Real Esteli (Nic) 0.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kansas City | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| Saprissa | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Real Esteli | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 2 |

**Group 3**

Sep 17: Montreal Impact (Can) 1 New York Red Bulls (USA) 0.
Sep 24: FAS (ESv) 0 New York Red Bulls 0.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Montreal (Q) | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| New York RB | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| FAS | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 |

**Group 4**

Sep 16: Waterhouse (Jam) 1 DC United (USA) 2.
Sep 24: DC United 2 Tauro (Pan) 0.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 4**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DC United (Q) | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| Waterhouse | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| Tauro | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 0 |

**Group 5**

Sep 16: Portland Timbers (USA) 4 Olimpia (Hnd) 2.
Sep 23: Portland Timbers 6 Alpha United (Guy) 0.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 5**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Portland | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 3 | 9 |
| Olimpia | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| Alpha United | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 0 |

**Group 6**

Sep 16: Cruz Azul (Mex) 3 Chorrillo (Pan) 0.
Sep 25: Chorrillo 1 Alajuelense (CR) 1.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 6**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alajuelense | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Cruz Azul | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Chorrillo | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 |

**Group 7**

Sep 18: Isidro Metapan (ESv) 2 Herediano (CR) 4.
Sep 24: Herediano 2 Leon (Mex) 1.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 7**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Herediano (Q) | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 4 | 10 |
| Leon | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Isidro Metapan | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 0 |

**Group 8**

Sep 17: Bayamon (PR) 1 America (Mex) 10.
Sep 25: Bayamon 0 Comunicaciones (Gtm) 2.

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 8**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| America | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 3 | 7 |
| Comunic'nes | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 7 |
| Bayamon | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 23 | 0 |

**Remaining matchday:** *Oct 21-23*

*Group winners qualify for quarter-finals*

## ARUBA

**Championship Final**

(best of 3 legs)
*1st leg - June 15; 2nd leg - June 18; 3rd leg - June 21*
Racing Club v Britannia 1-2, 2-1, 1-1 (aet)
(Britannia 4-3 on pens)

## MEXICO

### Apertura

**Regular season**

Aug 29: Queretaro 0 Monterrey 1; Tijuana 1 Leones Negros 1.
Aug 30: America 0 Pumas 1; Puebla 3 Morelia 2; Tigres 0 Chiapas 2; Leon 1 Pachuca 2; Atlas 1 Santos 1.
Aug 31: Toluca 2 Veracruz 1; Guadalajara 0 Cruz Azul 0.
Sep 7: Guadalajara 3 Leones Negros 0.
Sep 12: Queretaro 1 Puebla 1; Veracruz 1 Atlas 1; Santos 2 Leon 0.
Sep 13: Cruz Azul 1 Toluca 2; Pachuca 1 Tijuana 1; Leones Negros 0 America 0; Chiapas 1 Morelia 1.
Sep 14: Pumas 2 Tigres 2.
Sep 19: Morelia 2 Pumas 3; Tijuana 4 Santos 1.
Sep 20: Puebla 1 Chiapas 1; America 2 Pachuca 1; Tigres 1 Leones Negros 0; Leon 3 Veracruz 1; Atlas 2 Cruz Azul 1.
Sep 21: Toluca 1 Monterrey 0; Guadalajara 1 Queretaro 4.

**MEXICO – APERTURA: REGULAR**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| America | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 20 |
| Atlas | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 8 | 18 |
| Toluca | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 8 | 17 |
| Monterrey | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 16 |
| Santos | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 15 |
| Queretaro | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 10 | 14 |
| Tigres | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 11 | 13 |
| Chiapas | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 13 |
| Pachuca | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 13 |
| Tijuana | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 11 |
| Pumas | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 11 |
| Puebla | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 10 |
| Leon | 9 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 16 | 9 |
| Cruz Azul | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| Guadalajara | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 9 |
| Veracruz | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 8 |
| Leones Negros | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 6 |
| Morelia | 9 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 21 | 3 |

17-round regular season (17x1); top 8 will enter championship play-offs; no relegation after apertura

## TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

**TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Academy (C) | 12 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 42 | 19 | 30 |
| Cheshire Hall | 12 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 48 | 19 | 28 |
| Rozo | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 34 | 19 | 22 |
| SWA Sharks | 12 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 23 | 24 | 19 |
| Beaches | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 11 |
| Trailblazers | 12 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 20 | 58 | 7 |
| Teachers | 12 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 18 | 44 | 5 |

## UNITED STATES

**Regular season**

Aug 29: Kansas City 1 Houston 3.
Aug 30: Seattle 1 Colorado 0; Toronto 0 New England 3; Montreal 2 Columbus 0; Chicago 1 Dallas 0; San Jose 1 Salt Lake 1; Vancouver 0 Portland 3.
Aug 31: DC United 2 New York Red Bulls 0; Chivas 0 Los Angeles 3.
Sep 3: Philadelphia 1 Toronto 0; New England 3 Kansas City 1; Chivas 2 Seattle 4.
Sep 5: Los Angeles 6 Colorado 0.
Sep 6: Toronto 0 Philadelphia 2; New York Red Bulls 2 Kansas City 1; Houston 3 Montreal 2; Salt Lake 2 Dallas 1; Vancouver 0 DC United 0;
Sep 7: Columbus 3 Chivas 0; Portland 3 San Jose 3; New England 2 Chicago 1.

banned from playing at home for the whole of the 2014-2015 domestic season. Their supporters will not be allowed to attend any matches until the new year.

EGYPT

### Super Cup success

Al Ahly extended their unbeaten run against Zamalek with a 5-4 victory on penalties to win the Egyptian Super Cup.

The Red Devils, who have not lost to their rivals since 2007, won when Burkina Faso midfielder Mohamed Koffi blasted his spot-kick wide.

Shoot-out winners...Al Ahly

FIJI

### Ba's run ended

Suva ended a 17-year title drought by claiming the National Football League with a game to spare.

A 3-1 victory over Rewa gave the southern-based club their third championship in total and ended Ba's run of four consecutive league crowns. Suva will now make their debut in the OFC Champions League, going directly into next year's group stage along with NFL runners-up Ba.

**Sep 10:** Montreal 2 Los Angeles 2; New York Red Bulls 1 DC United 0; Vancouver 2 San Jose 0.
**Sep 12:** Seattle 3 Salt Lake 2; Chivas 0 Kansas City 4.
**Sep 13:** Philadelphia 2 New York Red Bulls 2; New England 2 Montreal 1; Houston 2 Columbus 2; Dallas 2 Vancouver 1; Chicago 1 Toronto 1; Colorado 2 Portland 2.
**Sep 14:** San Jose 1 Los Angeles 1.
**Sep 19:** Salt Lake 5 Colorado 1.
**Sep 20:** Portland 3 Vancouver 0; Philadelphia 0 Houston 0; Columbus 1 New England 0; Montreal 2 San Jose 0; New York Red Bulls 4 Seattle 1; Chicago 3 DC United 3; Los Angeles 2 Dallas 1.
**Sep 21:** Toronto 3 Chivas 0.
**Sep 24:** Dallas 3 Seattle 1.

**USA – REGULAR: EASTERN CONFERENCE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DC United | 29 | 14 | 6 | 9 | 45 | 34 | 48 |
| Kansas City | 29 | 13 | 6 | 10 | 43 | 34 | 45 |
| New England | 29 | 13 | 3 | 13 | 41 | 40 | 42 |
| New York RB | 29 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 48 | 42 | 41 |
| Columbus | 29 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 41 | 36 | 40 |
| Philadelphia | 29 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 45 | 43 | 38 |
| Toronto | 28 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 39 | 43 | 37 |
| Houston | 28 | 9 | 6 | 13 | 33 | 50 | 33 |
| Chicago | 28 | 5 | 16 | 7 | 37 | 43 | 31 |
| Montreal | 29 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 34 | 52 | 24 |

34-round regular season (7x3 & 2x2 in own conference, 9x1 in western conference)

**USA – REGULAR: WESTERN CONFERENCE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 29 | 15 | 9 | 5 | 59 | 31 | 54 |
| Seattle | 29 | 17 | 3 | 9 | 53 | 44 | 54 |
| Salt Lake | 29 | 13 | 10 | 6 | 49 | 36 | 49 |
| Dallas | 30 | 14 | 6 | 10 | 52 | 40 | 48 |
| Portland | 29 | 9 | 12 | 8 | 52 | 48 | 39 |
| Vancouver | 29 | 8 | 13 | 8 | 36 | 39 | 37 |
| Colorado | 29 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 40 | 53 | 31 |
| San Jose | 28 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 33 | 41 | 28 |
| Chivas | 29 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 23 | 54 | 24 |

34-round regular season (8x3 in own conference, 10x1 in eastern conference)

Top 5 in both conferences will enter championship play-offs; no relegation from this league

# AFRICA

## CONFEDERATION CUP

### Group A

**GROUP A – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AC Leopards (Q) | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 4 | 11 |
| Coton Sport (Q) | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 11 |
| Real Bamako | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| ASEC Abidjan | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 3 |

*AC Leopards (Con), ASEC Abidjan (IvC), Coton Sport (Cam), Real Bamako (Mli)*

### Group B

**GROUP B – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Al Ahly (Q) | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| Sewe Sport (Q) | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 9 |
| Nkana | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 7 |
| Etoile Sahel | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 6 |

*Al Ahly (Egy), Etoile Sahel (Tun), Nkana (Zam), Sewe Sport (IvC)*

*Top 2 in both groups qualified for semi-finals*

## BENIN

**BENIN – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buffles (C) | 24 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 17 | 12 | 40 |
| Pantheres | 24 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 21 | 11 | 39 |
| Ayema | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 16 | 16 | 37 |
| ASPAC | 24 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 21 | 18 | 36 |
| Avrankou | 24 | 7 | 14 | 3 | 17 | 12 | 35 |
| Dragons | 24 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 26 | 19 | 33 |
| Police | 24 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 20 | 16 | 33 |
| Energie | 24 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 20 | 17 | 33 |
| USS Krake | 24 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 19 | 18 | 32 |
| Tonnerre | 24 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 15 | 17 | 32 |
| Mogas 90 | 24 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 18 | 32 |
| ASOS | 24 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 9 | 18 | 19 |
| JA Plateau[1] (R) | 13 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 17 | 9 |
| Adjobi[1] (R) | 13 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 16 | 7 |

*[1]JA Plateau & Adjobi were expelled from the league after failing to show up for their 14th round fixtures*

## SOMALIA

**SOMALIA – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Banadir (C) | 14 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 34 | 13 | 34 |
| Elman | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 34 | 17 | 28 |
| Heegan | 14 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 20 | 24 |
| Jeenyo | 14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 23 | 15 | 23 |
| Horseed | 14 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 26 | 28 | 17 |
| Gaadiidka | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 18 | 25 | 12 |
| Dekedda | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 22 | 12 |
| Savaana (R) | 14 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 11 | 45 | 4 |

# ASIA

## AFC CUP

### Quarter-finals

*1st legs - Aug 19; 2nd legs - Aug 26*

Al Qadsia (Kuw) v Al Hadd (Bhr)
1-1, 2-2 (agg 3-3, Al Qadsia on away goals)
Ha Noi T&T (Vie) v Arbil (Irq) 0-1, 0-2 (agg 0-3)
Kuwait SC (Kuw) v Persipura Jayapura (Ins)
3-2, 1-6 (agg 4-8)
Ninh Binh (Vie) v Kitchee (HK) 2-4, 1-0 (agg 3-4)

## GUAM

**GUAM – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rovers (C) | 20 | 16 | 0 | 4 | 110 | 23 | 48 |
| Shipyard | 20 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 75 | 44 | 38 |
| Quality Distrib | 20 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 57 | 63 | 33 |
| Espada | 20 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 61 | 54 | 27 |
| S'thern Cobras | 20 | 7 | 2 | 11 | 68 | 88 | 23 |
| Paintco | 20 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 20 | 119 | 3 |

## JAPAN

**Aug 30:** Gamba 5 Albirex 0; Urawa 4 Omiya 0; Tokushima 0 Sanfrecce 1; Sagan 2 Shimizu 2; Cerezo 1 Vissel 2; Nagoya 1 Kawasaki 1; Kashima 2 Tokyo 2; Vegalta 1 Yokohama 2; Kashiwa 3 Ventforet 0.
**Sep 13:** Shimizu 1 Urawa 4; Omiya 2 Kashima 1; Tokyo 1 Vissel 1; Ventforet 1 Sagan 0; Kawasaki 4 Tokushima 0; Yokohama 0 Nagoya 2; Albirex 1 Vegalta 0; Cerezo 2 Kashiwa 0; Sanfrecce 0 Gamba 1.
**Sep 20:** Nagoya 2 Ventforet 0; Gamba 2 Cerezo 0; Kashima 1 Yokohama 0; Urawa 3 Kashiwa 1; Kawasaki 0 Tokyo 0; Vissel 3 Shimizu 1; Sanfrecce 2 Albirex 0; Tokushima 0 Omiya 2; Sagan 2 Vegalta 1.
**Sep 23:** Vegalta 0 Kashima 1; Shimizu 0 Gamba 3; Albirex 0 Urawa 2; Tokyo 4 Tokushima 0; Yokohama 1 Sanfrecce 0; Omiya 1 Kawasaki 3; Ventforet 2 Vissel 0; Kashiwa 2 Sagan 0; Cerezo 1 Nagoya 2.

**JAPAN**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Urawa | 25 | 16 | 5 | 4 | 44 | 20 | 53 |
| Kawasaki | 25 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 46 | 29 | 47 |
| Kashima | 25 | 14 | 4 | 7 | 46 | 28 | 46 |
| Sagan | 25 | 14 | 2 | 9 | 33 | 23 | 44 |
| Gamba | 25 | 13 | 4 | 8 | 43 | 24 | 43 |
| Tokyo | 25 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 36 | 22 | 39 |
| Vissel | 25 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 39 | 34 | 39 |
| Kashiwa | 25 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 33 | 31 | 38 |
| Sanfrecce | 25 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 31 | 29 | 37 |
| Yokohama | 25 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 29 | 23 | 36 |
| Nagoya | 25 | 9 | 6 | 10 | 34 | 36 | 33 |
| Albirex | 25 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 19 | 28 | 31 |
| Ventforet | 25 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 20 | 28 | 27 |
| Vegalta | 25 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 22 | 38 | 25 |
| Shimizu | 25 | 7 | 4 | 14 | 29 | 46 | 25 |
| Cerezo | 25 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 27 | 31 | 23 |
| Omiya | 25 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 32 | 49 | 22 |
| Tokushima | 25 | 3 | 3 | 19 | 11 | 55 | 12 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

**Leading goalscorers**

15 Yoshito Okubo (Kawasaki)
13 Pedro Junior (Vissel)

## MONGOLIA

**Championship Final**

**Aug 30:** Erchim 0 Khoromkhon 1.

# OCEANIA

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### Preliminary round

**Participants**

Lotoha'apai United (Ton)
Lupe Ole Soaga (Sam)
Puaikura (Coo)
Samoa Korean Baptist Church (AmS)

*To be played as a round-robin in Apia, Samoa, from October 7 to 11; the team finishing top will qualify for the 12-team group stage*

## FIJI

**FIJI – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Suva (C) | 14 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 25 | 11 | 34 |
| Ba | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 33 | 13 | 26 |
| Nadi | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 17 | 13 | 26 |
| Labasa | 14 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 16 | 24 |
| Rewa | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 13 | 21 |
| Lautoka | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 15 | 22 | 13 |
| Nadroga | 14 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 31 | 10 |
| Navua (R) | 14 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 31 | 5 |

**KEY TO TABLES**

(C) = champions
(R) = relegated
(Q) = qualified for next stage

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# ENGLAND PREMIER LEAGUE 2014-15

## ARSENAL

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26 | Emiliano **MARTINEZ** (Arg) | (22) 22.09.92 |
| 13 | David **OSPINA** (Col) | (26) 31.08.88 |
| 1 | Wojciech **SZCZESNY** (Pol) | (24) 18.04.90 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 21 | Calum **CHAMBERS** | (19) 20.01.95 |
| 2 | Mathieu **DEBUCHY** (Fra) | (29) 28.07.85 |
| 3 | Kieran **GIBBS** | (25) 26.09.89 |
| 6 | Laurent **KOSCIELNY** (Fra) | (29) 10.09.85 |
| 4 | Per **MERTESACKER** (Ger) | (30) 29.09.84 |
| 18 | Nacho **MONREAL** (Spa) | (28) 26.02.86 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | Mikel **ARTETA** (Spa) | (32) 26.03.82 |
| 19 | Santi **CAZORLA** (Spa) | (29) 13.12.84 |
| 34 | Francis **COQUELIN** (Fra) | (23) 13.05.91 |
| 24 | Abou **DIABY** (Fra) | (28) 11.05.86 |
| 20 | Mathieu **FLAMINI** (Fra) | (30) 07.03.84 |
| 15 | Alex **OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN** | (21) 15.08.93 |
| 11 | Mesut **OZIL** (Ger) | (25) 15.10.88 |
| 16 | Aaron **RAMSEY** (Wal) | (23) 26.12.90 |
| 7 | Tomas **ROSICKY** (CzR) | (33) 04.10.80 |
| 10 | Jack **WILSHERE** | (22) 01.01.92 |
| 35 | Gedion **ZELALEM** (Ger) | (17) 26.01.97 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 28 | Joel **CAMPBELL** (CR) | (22) 26.06.92 |
| 12 | Olivier **GIROUD** (Fra) | (28) 30.09.86 |
| 27 | Serge **GNABRY** (Ger) | (19) 14.07.95 |
| 9 | Lukas **PODOLSKI** (Ger) | (29) 04.06.85 |
| 17 | Alexis **SANCHEZ** (Chl) | (25) 19.12.88 |
| 22 | Yaya **SANOGO** (Fra) | (21) 27.01.93 |
| 14 | Theo **WALCOTT** | (25) 16.03.89 |
| 23 | Danny **WELBECK** | (23) 26.11.90 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Arsene **WENGER** (Fra) | | (64) 22.10.49 |

## ASTON VILLA

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 31 | Shay **GIVEN** (Rol) | (38) 20.04.76 |
| 1 | Brad **GUZAN** (USA) | (30) 09.09.84 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Nathan **BAKER** | (23) 23.04.91 |
| 23 | Aly **CISSOKHO** (Fra) | (27) 15.09.87 |
| 6 | Ciaran **CLARK** (Rol) | (25) 26.09.89 |
| 21 | Alan **HUTTON** (Sco) | (29) 30.11.84 |
| 34 | Matthew **LOWTON** | (25) 09.06.89 |
| 5 | Jores **OKORE** (Den) | (22) 11.08.92 |
| 18 | Kieran **RICHARDSON** | (29) 21.10.84 |
| 14 | Phillipe **SENDEROS** (Swi) | (29) 14.02.85 |
| 35 | Enda **STEVENS** (Rol) | (24) 09.07.90 |
| 4 | Ron **VLAAR** (Hol) | (29) 16.02.85 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7 | Leandro **BACUNA** (Hol) | (23) 21.08.91 |
| 8 | Tom **CLEVERLEY** | (25) 12.08.89 |
| 12 | Joe **COLE** | (32) 08.11.81 |
| 16 | Fabian **DELPH** | (24) 21.11.89 |
| 40 | Jack **GREALISH** (Rol) | (19) 10.09.95 |
| 17 | Chris **HERD** (Aus) | (25) 04.04.89 |
| 28 | Charles **N'ZOGBIA** (Fra) | (28) 28.05.86 |
| 24 | Carlos **SANCHEZ** (Col) | (28) 06.02.86 |
| 15 | Ashley **WESTWOOD** | (24) 01.04.90 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | Gabriel **AGBONLAHOR** | (27) 13.10.86 |
| 19 | Darren **BENT** | (30) 06.02.84 |
| 20 | Christian **BENTEKE** (Blg) | (23) 03.12.90 |
| 38 | Graham **BURKE** (Rol) | (21) 21.09.93 |
| 27 | Libor **KOZAK** (CzR) | (25) 30.05.89 |
| 37 | Callum **ROBINSON** | (19) 02.02.95 |
| 10 | Andreas **WEIMANN** (Aut) | (23) 05.08.91 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Paul **LAMBERT** (Sco) | | (45) 07.08.69 |

## BURNLEY

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12 | Alex **CISAK** (Aut) | (25) 19.05.89 |
| 22 | Matt **GILKS** (Sco) | (32) 04.06.82 |
| 1 | Tom **HEATON** | (28) 15.04.86 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | Michael **DUFF** (NI) | (36) 11.01 78 |
| 25 | Michael **KEANE** | (21) 11.01.93 |
| 3 | Daniel **LAFFERTY** (NI) | (26) 01.04.88 |
| 28 | Kevin **LONG** (Rol) | (24) 18.08.90 |
| 6 | Ben **MEE** | (25) 23.09.89 |
| 18 | Steven **REID** (Rol) | (33) 10.03.81 |
| 5 | Jason **SHACKELL** | (31) 26.09.83 |
| 2 | Kieran **TRIPPIER** | (24) 19.09.90 |
| 23 | Stephen **WARD** (Rol) | (29) 20.08.85 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 37 | Scott **ARFIELD** (Sco) | (25) 01.11.88 |
| 21 | George **BOYD** (Sco) | (28) 02.10.85 |
| 20 | Nathaniel **CHALOBAH** | (19) 12.12.94 |
| 33 | Steven **HEWITT** | (20) 20.12.93 |
| 14 | David **JONES** | (29) 29.11.84 |
| 11 | Michael **KIGHTLY** | (28) 24.01.86 |
| 8 | Dean **MARNEY** | (30) 31.01.84 |
| 15 | Matt **TAYLOR** | (32) 27.11.81 |
| 7 | Ross **WALLACE** (Sco) | (29) 23.05.85 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 30 | Ashley **BARNES** (Aut) | (24) 24.10.89 |
| 10 | Danny **INGS** | (22) 16.03.92 |
| 19 | Lukas **JUTKIEWICZ** | (25) 20.03.89 |
| 17 | Marvin **SORDELL** | (23) 17.02.91 |
| 9 | Sam **VOKES** (Wal) | (24) 21.10.89 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sean **DYCHE** | | (43) 28.06.71 |

## CHELSEA

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Petr **CECH** (CzR) | (32) 20.05.82 |
| 13 | Thibaut **COURTOIS** (Blg) | (22) 11.05.92 |
| 23 | Mark **SCHWARZER** (Aus) | (41) 06.10.72 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | Nathan **AKE** (Hol) | (19) 18.02.95 |
| 28 | Cesar **AZPILICUETA** (Spa) | (25) 28.08.89 |
| 24 | Gary **CAHILL** | (28) 19.12.85 |
| 31 | Andreas **CHRISTENSEN** (Den) | (18) 10.04.96 |
| 2 | Branislav **IVANOVIC** (Ser) | (30) 22.02.84 |
| 3 | Filipe **LUIS** (Bra) | (29) 09.08.85 |
| 26 | John **TERRY** | (33) 07.12.80 |
| 5 | Kurt **ZOUMA** (Fra) | (19) 27.10.94 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 34 | Lewis **BAKER** | (19) 22.05.95 |
| 4 | Cesc **FABREGAS** (Spa) | (27) 04.05.87 |
| 10 | Eden **HAZARD** (Blg) | (23) 07.01.91 |
| 21 | Nemanja **MATIC** (Ser) | (26) 01.08.88 |
| 12 | John Obi **MIKEL** (Nga) | (27) 22.04.87 |
| 8 | **OSCAR** (Bra) | (23) 09.09.91 |
| 7 | **RAMIRES** (Bra) | (27) 24.03.87 |
| 17 | Mohamed **SALAH** (Egy) | (22) 15.06.92 |
| 22 | **WILLIAN** (Bra) | (26) 09.08.88 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 19 | Diego **COSTA** (Spa) | (25) 07.10.88 |
| 11 | Didier **DROGBA** (IvC) | (36) 11.03.78 |
| 18 | Loic **REMY** (Fra) | (27) 02.01.87 |
| 14 | Andre **SCHURRLE** (Ger) | (23) 06.11.90 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jose **MOURINHO** (Por) | | (51) 26.01.63 |

## CRYSTAL PALACE

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 13 | Wayne **HENNESSEY** (Wal) | (27) 24.01.87 |
| 26 | Chris **KETTINGS** (Sco) | (21) 25.10.92 |
| 1 | Julian **SPERONI** (Arg) | (35) 18.05.79 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | Scott **DANN** | (27) 14.02.87 |
| 27 | Damien **DELANEY** (Rol) | (33) 20.07.81 |
| 19 | Zeki **FRYERS** | (22) 09.09.92 |
| 4 | Brede **HANGELAND** (Nor) | (33) 20.06.81 |
| 34 | Martin **KELLY** | (24) 27.04.90 |
| 3 | Adrian **MARIAPPA** (Jam) | (27) 03.10.86 |
| 5 | Paddy **McCARTHY** (Rol) | (31) 31.05.83 |
| 2 | Joel **WARD** | (24) 29.10.89 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 | Barry **BANNAN** (Sco) | (24) 01.12.89 |
| 7 | Yannick **BOLASIE** (DRC) | (25) 24.05.89 |
| 8 | Adlene **GUEDIOURA** (Alg) | (28) 12.11.85 |
| 15 | Mile **JEDINAK** (Aus) | (30) 03.08.84 |
| 28 | Joe **LEDLEY** (Wal) | (27) 23.01.87 |
| 24 | James **McARTHUR** (Sco) | (26) 07.10.87 |
| 12 | Stuart **O'KEEFE** | (23) 04.03.91 |
| 42 | Jason **PUNCHEON** | (28) 26.06.86 |
| 14 | Jerome **THOMAS** | (31) 23.03.83 |
| 20 | Jonathan **WILLIAMS** (Wal) | (20) 09.10.93 |
| 11 | Wilfried **ZAHA** | (21) 10.11.92 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | Fraizer **CAMPBELL** | (27) 13.09.87 |
| 29 | Marouane **CHAMAKH** (Mor) | (30) 10.01.84 |
| 9 | Kevin **DOYLE** (Rol) | (31) 18.09.83 |
| 16 | Dwight **GAYLE** | (24) 17.10.89 |
| 18 | Andrew **JOHNSON** | (33) 10.02.81 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Neil **WARNOCK** | | (65) 01.12.48 |

## MANCHESTER UNITED

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 40 | Ben **AMOS** | (24) 10.04.90 |
| 1 | David **DE GEA** (Spa) | (23) 07.11.90 |
| 13 | Anders **LINDEGAARD** (Den) | (30) 13.04.84 |
| 50 | Sam **JOHNSTONE** | (21) 25.03.93 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 42 | Tyler **BLACKETT** | (20) 02.04.94 |
| 6 | Jonny **EVANS** (NI) | (26) 03.01.88 |
| 41 | Reece **JAMES** | (20) 07.11.93 |
| 37 | Saidy **JANKO** (Swi) | (18) 22.10.95 |
| 4 | Phil **JONES** | (22) 21.02.92 |
| 2 | **RAFAEL** (Bra) | (24) 09.07.90 |
| 5 | Marcos **ROJO** (Arg) | (24) 20.03.90 |
| 3 | Luke **SHAW** | (19) 12.07.95 |
| 12 | Chris **SMALLING** | (24) 22.11.89 |
| 36 | Marnick **VERMIJL** (Blg) | (22) 13.01.92 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 28 | **ANDERSON** (Bra) | (26) 13.04.88 |
| 17 | Daley **BLIND** (Hol) | (24) 09.03.90 |
| 16 | Michael **CARRICK** | (33) 28.07.81 |
| 7 | Angel **DI MARIA** (Arg) | (26) 14.02.88 |
| 31 | Marouane **FELLAINI** (Blg) | (26) 22.11.87 |
| 24 | Darren **FLETCHER** (Sco) | (30) 01.02.84 |
| 21 | Ander **HERRERA** (Spa) | (25) 14.08.89 |
| 11 | Adnan **JANUZAJ** (Blg) | (19) 05.02.95 |
| 35 | Jesse **LINGARD** | (21) 15.12.92 |
| 8 | Juan **MATA** (Spa) | (26) 28.04.88 |
| 44 | Andreas **PEREIRA** (Bra) | (18) 01.01.96 |
| 25 | Antonio **VALENCIA** (Ecu) | (28) 04.08.85 |
| 18 | Ashley **YOUNG** | (29) 09.07.85 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Radamel **FALCAO** (Col) | (28) 10.02.86 |
| 48 | Will **KEANE** | (21) 11.01.93 |
| 10 | Wayne **ROONEY** | (28) 24.10.85 |
| 20 | Robin **VAN PERSIE** (Hol) | (31) 06.08.83 |
| 49 | James **WILSON** | (18) 01.12.95 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Louis **VAN GAAL** (Hol) | | (63) 08.08.51 |

## NEWCASTLE UNITED

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 31 | Jak **ALNWICK** | (21) 17.06.93 |
| 21 | Rob **ELLIOT** (Rol) | (28) 30.04.86 |
| 1 | Tim **KRUL** (Hol) | (26) 03.04.88 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Fabricio **COLOCCINI** (Arg) | (32) 22.01.82 |
| 36 | Paul **DUMMETT** (Wal) | (23) 26.09.91 |
| 39 | Shane **FERGUSON** (NI) | (23) 12.07.91 |
| 33 | Curtis **GOOD** (Aus) | (21) 23.03.93 |
| 19 | Massadio **HAIDARA** (Fra) | (21) 02.12.92 |
| 22 | Daryl **JANMAAT** (Hol) | (25) 22.07.89 |
| 42 | Kevin **MBABU** (Swi) | (19) 19.04.95 |
| 3 | Davide **SANTON** (Ita) | (23) 02.01.91 |
| 37 | Lubomir **SATKA** (Sln) | (18) 02.12.95 |
| 34 | Remie **STREETE** | (19) 19.04.95 |
| 4 | Ryan **TAYLOR** | (30) 19.08.84 |
| 27 | Steven **TAYLOR** | (28) 23.01.86 |
| 6 | Mike **WILLIAMSON** | (30) 08.11.83 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 16 | Rolando **AARONS** | (18) 16.11.95 |
| 30 | Mehdi **ABEID** (Alg) | (22) 06.08.92 |
| 8 | Vurnon **ANITA** (Hol) | (25) 04.04.89 |
| 38 | Gael **BIGIRIMANA** | (20) 22.10.93 |
| 20 | Remy **CABELLA** (Fra) | (24) 08.03.90 |
| 14 | Jack **COLBACK** | (24) 24.10.89 |
| 10 | Siem **DE JONG** (Hol) | (25) 28.01.89 |
| 18 | Jonas **GUTIERREZ** (Arg) | (31) 05.07.83 |
| 25 | Gabriel **OBERTAN** (Fra) | (25) 26.02.89 |
| 7 | Moussa **SISSOKO** (Fra) | (24) 16.08.89 |
| 24 | Cheick **TIOTE** (IvC) | (28) 21.06.86 |
| 23 | Haris **VUCKIC** (Sln) | (22) 21.08.92 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 28 | Sammy **AMEOBI** | (22) 01.05.92 |
| 32 | Adam **ARMSTRONG** | (17) 10.02.97 |
| 35 | Adam **CAMPBELL** | (19) 01.01.95 |
| 9 | Papiss **CISSE** (Sen) | (29) 03.06.85 |
| 15 | Facundo **FERREYRA** (Arg) | (23) 14.03.91 |
| 11 | Yoan **GOUFFRAN** (Fra) | (28) 25.05.86 |
| 17 | Ayoze **PEREZ** (Spa) | (21) 23.07.93 |
| 29 | Emmanuel **RIVIERE** (Fra) | (24) 03.03.90 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alan **PARDEW** | | (53) 18.07.61 |

## QPR

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Robert **GREEN** | (34) 18.01.80 |
| 12 | Alex **McCARTHY** | (24) 03.12.89 |
| 21 | Brian **MURPHY** (Rol) | (31) 07.05.83 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | Steven **CAULKER** | (22) 29.12.91 |
| 22 | Richard **DUNNE** (Rol) | (35) 21.09.79 |
| 28 | Max **EHMER** (Ger) | (22) 03.02.92 |
| 5 | Rio **FERDINAND** | (35) 07.11.78 |
| 37 | Michael **HARRIMAN** (Rol) | (21) 23.10.92 |
| 6 | Clint **HILL** | (35) 19.10.78 |
| 14 | Mauricio **ISLA** (Chl) | (26) 12.06.88 |
| 15 | Nedum **ONUOHA** | (27) 12.11.86 |
| 3 | Armand **TRAORE** (Sen) | (24) 08.10.89 |
| 13 | **YUN** Suk-young (SKo) | (24) 13.02.90 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | Joey **BARTON** | (32) 02.09.82 |
| 36 | Michael **DOUGHTY** (Wal) | (21) 20.11.92 |
| 18 | Alejandro **FAURLIN** (Arg) | (28) 09.08.86 |
| 10 | Leroy **FER** (Hol) | (24) 05.01.90 |
| 20 | Karl **HENRY** | (31) 26.11.82 |
| 23 | Junior **HOILETT** (Can) | (24) 05.06.90 |
| 19 | Niko **KRANJCAR** (Cro) | (30) 13.08.84 |
| 17 | Jordan **MUTCH** | (22) 02.12.91 |
| 7 | Matt **PHILLIPS** (Sco) | (22) 25.10.91 |
| 30 | **SANDRO** (Bra) | (25) 15.03.89 |
| 27 | Adel **TAARABT** (Mor) | (25) 24.05.89 |
| 11 | Shaun **WRIGHT-PHILLIPS** | (32) 25.10.81 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Charlie **AUSTIN** | (25) 05.07.89 |
| 24 | Eduardo **VARGAS** (Chl) | (24) 20.11.89 |
| 25 | Bobby **ZAMORA** | (33) 16.01.81 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Harry **REDKNAPP** | | (67) 02.03.47 |

## SOUTHAMPTON

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Kelvin **DAVIS** | (38) 29.09.76 |
| 23 | Fraser **FORSTER** | (26) 17.03.88 |
| 25 | Paulo **GAZZANIGA** (Arg) | (22) 02.01.92 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 17 | Toby **ALDERWEIRELD** (Blg) | (25) 02.03.89 |
| 21 | Ryan **BERTRAND** | (25) 05.08.89 |
| 2 | Nathaniel **CLYNE** | (23) 05.04.91 |
| 6 | Jose **FONTE** (Por) | (30) 22.12.83 |
| 5 | Florin **GARDOS** (Rom) | (25) 29.10.88 |
| 33 | Matt **TARGETT** | (19) 18.09.95 |
| 3 | Maya **YOSHIDA** (Jap) | (26) 24.08.88 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 18 | Jack **CORK** | (25) 25.06.89 |
| 8 | Steven **DAVIS** (NI) | (29) 01.01.85 |
| 27 | Lloyd **ISGROVE** (Wal) | (21) 12.01.93 |
| 10 | Sadio **MANE** (Sen) | (22) 10.04.92 |
| 38 | Sam **McQUEEN** | (19) 06.02.95 |
| 28 | Harrison **REED** | (19) 27.01.95 |
| 37 | Omar **ROWE** | (19) 30.10.94 |
| 4 | Morgan **SCHNEIDERLIN** (Fra) | (24) 08.11.89 |
| 11 | Dusan **TADIC** (Ser) | (25) 20.11.88 |
| 12 | Victor **WANYAMA** (Ken) | (23) 25.06.91 |
| 16 | James **WARD-PROWSE** | (19) 01.11.94 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 40 | Sam **GALLAGHER** | (19) 15.09.95 |
| 7 | Shane **LONG** (Rol) | (27) 22.01.87 |
| 24 | Emmanuel **MAYUKA** (Zam) | (23) 21.11.90 |
| 19 | Graziano **PELLE** (Ita) | (29) 15.07.85 |
| 9 | Jay **RODRIGUEZ** | (25) 29.07.89 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ronald **KOEMAN** (Hol) | | (51) 21.03.63 |

## STOKE CITY

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Asmir **BEGOVIC** (Bos) | (27) 20.06.87 |
| 22 | Jack **BUTLAND** | (21) 10.03.93 |
| 29 | Thomas **SORENSEN** (Den) | (38) 12.06.76 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Phil **BARDSLEY** (Sco) | (29) 28.06.85 |
| 20 | Geoff **CAMERON** (USA) | (29) 11.07.85 |
| 4 | Robert **HUTH** (Ger) | (30) 18.08.84 |
| 5 | Marc **MUNIESA** (Spa) | (22) 27.03.92 |
| 3 | Erik **PIETERS** (Hol) | (26) 07.08.88 |
| 17 | Ryan **SHAWCROSS** | (26) 04.10.87 |
| 23 | Dionatan **TEIXEIRA** (Slk) | (22) 24.07.92 |
| 28 | Andy **WILKINSON** | (30) 06.08.84 |
| 12 | Marc **WILSON** (Rol) | (27) 17.08.87 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 16 | Charlie **ADAM** (Sco) | (28) 10.12.85 |
| 24 | Oussama **ASSAIDI** (Mor) | (26) 15.08.88 |
| 7 | Stephen **IRELAND** (Rol) | (28) 22.08.86 |
| 13 | Victor **MOSES** (Nga) | (23) 12.12.90 |
| 15 | Steven **N'ZONZI** (Fra) | (25) 15.12.88 |
| 8 | Wilson **PALACIOS** (Hon) | (30) 29.07.84 |
| 21 | Steve **SIDWELL** | (31) 14.12.82 |
| 6 | Glenn **WHELAN** (Rol) | (30) 13.01.84 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | Marko **ARNAUTOVIC** (Aut) | (25) 19.04.89 |
| 27 | **BOJAN** Krkic (Spa) | (24) 28.08.90 |
| 25 | Peter **CROUCH** | (33) 30.01.81 |
| 18 | Mame **BIRAM** Diouf (Sen) | (26) 16.12.87 |
| 9 | Peter **ODEMWINGIE** (Nga) | (33) 15.07.81 |
| 19 | Jonathan **WALTERS** (Rol) | (31) 20.09.83 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mark **HUGHES** (Wal) | | (50) 01.11.63 |

(ages as of 03.10.14)

## EVERTON

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 24 | Tim **HOWARD** (USA) | (35) 06.03.79 |
| 1 | Joel **ROBLES** (Spa) | (24) 17.06.90 |
| 36 | Jindrich **STANEK** (CzR) | (18) 27.04.96 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 30 | Antolin **ALCARAZ** (Par) | (32) 30.07.82 |
| 3 | Leighton **BAINES** | (29) 11.12.84 |
| 27 | Tyias **BROWNING** | (20) 27.05.94 |
| 23 | Seamus **COLEMAN** (RoI) | (25) 11.10.88 |
| 15 | Sylvain **DISTIN** (Fra) | (36) 16.12.77 |
| 32 | Brendan **GALLOWAY** | (18) 17.03.96 |
| 29 | Luke **GARBUTT** | (21) 21.05.93 |
| 2 | Tony **HIBBERT** | (33) 20.02.81 |
| 6 | Phil **JAGIELKA** | (32) 17.08.82 |
| 8 | Bryan **OVIEDO** (CR) | (24) 18.02.90 |
| 38 | Matthew **PENNINGTON** | (19) 06.10.94 |
| 26 | John **STONES** | (20) 28.05.94 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 19 | Christian **ATSU** (Gha) | (22) 10.01.92 |
| 20 | Ross **BARKLEY** | (20) 05.12.93 |
| 18 | Gareth **BARRY** | (33) 23.02.81 |
| 17 | Muhamed **BESIC** (Bos) | (22) 10.09.92 |
| 4 | Darron **GIBSON** (RoI) | (26) 25.10.87 |
| 39 | Conor **GRANT** | (19) 18.04.95 |
| 16 | James **McCARTHY** (Ro) | (23) 12.11.90 |
| 7 | Aiden **McGEADY** (RoI) | (28) 04.04.86 |
| 21 | Leon **OSMAN** | (33) 17.05.81 |
| 22 | Steven **PIENAAR** (SAf) | (32) 17.03.82 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 40 | Sam **BYRNE** (RoI) | (19) 23.07.95 |
| 5 | Samuel **ETO'O** (Cam) | (33) 10.03.81 |
| 9 | Arouna **KONE** (IvC) | (30) 11.11.83 |
| 41 | Chris **LONG** | (19) 25.02.95 |
| 10 | Romelu **LUKAKU** (Blg) | (21) 13.05.93 |
| 35 | Conor **McALENY** | (22) 12.08.92 |
| 11 | Kevin **MIRALLAS** (Blg) | (26) 05.10.87 |
| 14 | Steven **NAISMITH** (Sco) | (28) 14.09.86 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Roberto **MARTINEZ** (Spa) | | (41) 13.07.73 |

## HULL CITY

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 22 | Steve **HARPER** | (39)14.03.75 |
| 16 | Eldin **JAKUPOVIC** (Swi) | (29) 02.10.84 |
| 1 | Allan **McGREGOR** (Sco) | (32) 31.01.82 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | Alex **BRUCE** (NI) | (30) 28.09.84 |
| 5 | James **CHESTER** (Wal) | (25) 23.01.89 |
| 6 | Curtis **DAVIES** | (29) 15.03.85 |
| 21 | Michael **DAWSON** | (30) 18.11.83 |
| 3 | Maynor **FIGUEROA** (Hon) | (31) 02.05.83 |
| 12 | Harry **MAGUIRE** | (21) 05.03.93 |
| 15 | Paul **McSHANE** (RoI) | (28) 06.01.86 |
| 26 | Andrew **ROBERTSON** (Sco) | (20) 11.03.94 |
| 2 | Liam **ROSENIOR** | (30) 09.07.84 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 34 | Hatem **BEN ARFA** (Fra) | (27) 07.03.87 |
| 11 | Robbie **BRADY** (RoI) | (22) 14.01.92 |
| 17 | Mohamed **DIAME** (Sen) | (27) 14.06.87 |
| 27 | Ahmed **ELMOHAMADY** (Egy) | (27) 09.09.87 |
| 8 | Tom **HUDDLESTONE** | (27) 28.12.86 |
| 23 | Tom **INCE** | (22) 30.01.92 |
| 14 | Jake **LIVERMORE** | (24) 14.11.89 |
| 7 | David **MEYLER** (RoI) | (25) 29.05.89 |
| 25 | Gaston **RAMIREZ** (Uru) | (23) 02.12.90 |
| 10 | Robert **SNODGRASS** (Sco) | (27) 07.09.87 |
| 29 | Stephen **QUINN** (RoI) | (28) 01.04.86 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 24 | Sone **ALUKO** (Nga) | (25) 19.02.89 |
| 9 | Abel **HERNANDEZ** (Uru) | (24) 08.08.90 |
| 18 | Nikica **JELAVIC** (Cro) | (29) 27.08.85 |
| 20 | Yannick **SAGBO** (IvC) | (26) 12.04.88 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Steve **BRUCE** | | (53) 31.12.60 |

## LEICESTER CITY

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12 | Ben **HAMER** | (26) 20.11.87 |
| 1 | Kasper **SCHMEICHEL** (Den) | (27) 05.11.86 |
| 31 | Adam **SMITH** | (21) 23.11.92 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Ritchie **DE LAET** (Blg) | (25) 28.11.88 |
| 3 | Paul **KONCHESKY** | (33) 15.05.81 |
| 18 | Liam **MOORE** | (21) 31.01.93 |
| 5 | Wes **MORGAN** (Jam) | (30) 21.01.84 |
| 15 | Jeff **SCHLUPP** (Gha) | (21) 23.12.92 |
| 17 | Danny **SIMPSON** | (27) 04.01.87 |
| 6 | Matthew **UPSON** | (35) 18.04.79 |
| 27 | Marcin **WASILEWSKI** (Pol) | (34) 09.06.80 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | Marc **ALBRIGHTON** | (24) 18.11.89 |
| 19 | Esteban **CAMBIASSO** (Arg) | (34) 18.08.80 |
| 4 | Danny **DRINKWATER** | (24) 05.03.90 |
| 7 | Dean **HAMMOND** | (31) 07.03.83 |
| 8 | Matty **JAMES** | (23) 22.07.91 |
| 10 | Andy **KING** (Wal) | (25) 29.10.88 |
| 24 | Anthony **KNOCKAERT** (Fra) | (22) 20.11.91 |
| 26 | Riyad **MAHREZ** (Alg) | (23) 21.02.91 |
| 14 | Nick **POWELL** | (20) 23.03.94 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 20 | Tom **HOPPER** | (20) 14.12.93 |
| 16 | Tom **LAWRENCE** (Wal) | (20) 13.01.94 |
| 35 | David **NUGENT** | (29) 02.05.85 |
| 22 | Gary **TAYLOR-FLETCHER** | (33) 04.06.81 |
| 23 | Leonardo **ULLOA** (Arg) | (28) 26.07.86 |
| 9 | Jamie **VARDY** | (27) 11.01.87 |
| 39 | Chris **WOOD** (NZ) | (22) 07.12.91 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Nigel **PEARSON** | | (51) 21.08.63 |

## LIVERPOOL

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Brad **JONES** (Aus) | (32) 19.03.82 |
| 22 | Simon **MIGNOLET** (Blg) | (26) 06.03.88 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | Jose **ENRIQUE** (Spa) | (28) 23.01.86 |
| 38 | Jon **FLANAGAN** | (21) 01.01.93 |
| 2 | Glen **JOHNSON** | (30) 23.08.84 |
| 6 | Dejan **LOVREN** (Cro) | (25) 05.07.89 |
| 19 | Javi **MANQUILLO** (Spa) | (20) 05.05.94 |
| 18 | Alberto **MORENO** (Spa) | (22) 05.07.92 |
| 17 | Mamadou **SAKHO** (Fra) | (24) 13.02.90 |
| 37 | Martin **SKRTEL** (Slk) | (29) 15.12.84 |
| 4 | Kolo **TOURE** (IvC) | (33) 19.03.81 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 24 | Joe **ALLEN** (Wal) | (24) 14.03.90 |
| 23 | Emre **CAN** (Ger) | (20) 12.01.94 |
| 10 | Philippe **COUTINHO** (Bra) | (22) 12.06.92 |
| 8 | Steven **GERRARD** | (34) 30.05.80 |
| 14 | Jordan **HENDERSON** | (24) 17.06.90 |
| 20 | Adam **LALLANA** | (26) 10.05.88 |
| 21 | **LUCAS** Leiva (Bra) | (27) 09.01.87 |
| 50 | Lazar **MARKOVIC** (Ser) | (20) 02.03.94 |
| 30 | **SUSO** (Spa) | (20) 19.11.93 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 45 | Mario **BALOTELLI** (Ita) | (24) 12.08.90 |
| 29 | Fabio **BORINI** (Ita) | (23) 29.03.91 |
| 9 | Rickie **LAMBERT** | (32) 16.02.82 |
| 48 | Jerome **SINCLAIR** | (18) 20.09.96 |
| 31 | Raheem **STERLING** | (19) 08.12.94 |
| 15 | Daniel **STURRIDGE** | (25) 01.09.89 |
| 36 | Samed **YESIL** (Ger) | (20) 25.05.94 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brendan **RODGERS** (NI) | | (41) 26.01.73 |

## MANCHESTER CITY

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 13 | Willy **CABALLERO** (Arg) | (33) 28.09.81 |
| 1 | Joe **HART** | (27) 19.04.87 |
| 29 | Richard **WRIGHT** | (36) 05.11.77 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 38 | Dedryck **BOYATA** (Blg) | (24) 28.11.90 |
| 22 | Gael **CLICHY** (Fra) | (29) 26.07.85 |
| 26 | Martin **DEMICHELIS** (Arg) | (33) 20.12.80 |
| 11 | Aleksandar **KOLAROV** (Ser) | (28) 10.11.85 |
| 4 | Vincent **KOMPANY** (Blg) | (28) 10.04.86 |
| 20 | Eliaquim **MANGALA** (Fra) | (23) 13.02.91 |
| 33 | Matija **NASTASIC** (Ser) | (21) 28.03.93 |
| 3 | Bacary **SAGNA** (Fra) | (31) 14.02.83 |
| 5 | Pablo **ZABALETA** (Arg) | (29) 16.01.85 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 | **FERNANDINHO** (Bra) | (29) 04.05.85 |
| 6 | **FERNANDO** (Bra) | (27) 25.07.87 |
| 18 | Frank **LAMPARD** | (36) 20.06.78 |
| 7 | James **MILNER** | (28) 04.01.86 |
| 8 | Samir **NASRI** (Fra) | (27) 26.06.87 |
| 15 | Jesus **NAVAS** (Spa) | (28) 21.11.85 |
| 21 | David **SILVA** (Spa) | (28) 08.01.86 |
| 12 | Scott **SINCLAIR** | (25) 25.03.89 |
| 42 | Yaya **TOURE** (IvC) | (31) 13.05.83 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 16 | Sergio **AGUERO** (Arg) | (26) 02.06.88 |
| 10 | Edin **DZEKO** (Bos) | (28) 17.03.86 |
| 35 | Stevan **JOVETIC** (Mne) | (24) 02.11.89 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Manuel **PELLEGRINI** (Chl) | | (61) 16.09.53 |

## SUNDERLAND

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 | Vito **MANNONE** (Ita) | (26) 02.03.88 |
| 1 | Costel **PANTILIMON** (Rom) | (27) 01.02.87 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | Wes **BROWN** | (34) 13.10.79 |
| 28 | Sebastian **COATES** (Uru) | (23) 07.10.90 |
| 2 | Billy **JONES** | (27) 24.03.87 |
| 16 | John **O'SHEA** (RoI) | (33) 30.04.81 |
| 3 | Patrick **VAN AANHOLT** (Hol) | (24) 29.08.90 |
| 27 | Santiago **VERGINI** (Arg) | (26) 03.08.88 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26 | Ricky **ALVAREZ** (Arg) | (26) 12.04.88 |
| 4 | Liam **BRIDCUTT** (Sco) | (25) 08.05.89 |
| 30 | Will **BUCKLEY** | (24) 21.11.89 |
| 6 | Lee **CATTERMOLE** | (26) 21.03.88 |
| 14 | Jordi **GOMEZ** (Spa) | (29) 24.05.85 |
| 23 | Emanuele **GIACCHERINI** (Ita) | (29) 05.05.85 |
| 11 | Adam **JOHNSON** | (27) 14.07.87 |
| 7 | Sebastian **LARSSON** (Swe) | (29) 06.06.85 |
| 18 | Charis **MAVRIAS** (Gre) | (20) 21.02.94 |
| 8 | Jack **RODWELL** | (23) 11.03.91 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 17 | Jozy **ALTIDORE** (USA) | (24) 06.11.89 |
| 9 | Steven **FLETCHER** (Sco) | (27) 26.03.87 |
| 19 | Danny **GRAHAM** | (29) 12.08.85 |
| 41 | Duncan **WATMORE** | (20) 08.03.94 |
| 10 | Connor **WICKHAM** | (21) 31.03.93 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Gus **POYET** (Uru) | | (46) 15.11.67 |

## SWANSEA CITY

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 13 | David **CORNELL** (Wal) | (23) 28.03.91 |
| 1 | Lukasz **FABIANSKI** (Pol) | (29) 18.04.85 |
| 25 | Gerhard **TREMMEL** (Ger) | (35) 16.11.78 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Jordi **AMAT** (Spa) | (22) 21.03.92 |
| 27 | Kyle **BARTLEY** | (23) 22.05.91 |
| 33 | Federico **FERNANDEZ** (Arg) | (25) 21.02.89 |
| 35 | Stephen **KINGSLEY** (Sco) | (20) 23.07.94 |
| 28 | Curtis **OBENG** | (25) 14.02.89 |
| 22 | Angel **RANGEL** (Spa) | (31) 28.10.82 |
| 29 | Jazz **RICHARDS** (Wal) | (23) 12.04.91 |
| 5 | Alan **TATE** | (32) 02.09.82 |
| 3 | Neil **TAYLOR** (Wal) | (25) 07.02.89 |
| 19 | Dwight **TIENDALLI** (Hol) | (28) 21.10.85 |
| 6 | Ashley **WILLIAMS** (Wal) | (30) 23.08.84 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7 | Leon **BRITTON** | (32) 16.09.82 |
| 14 | Tom **CARROLL** | (22) 28.05.92 |
| 12 | Nathan **DYER** | (26) 29.11.87 |
| 56 | Jay **FULTON** (Sco) | (20) 01.04.94 |
| 4 | **KI** Sung-yueng (SKo) | (25) 24.01.89 |
| 53 | Adam **KING** (Sco) | (18) 11.10.95 |
| 15 | Wayne **ROUTLEDGE** | (29) 07.01.85 |
| 30 | Josh **SHEEHAN** (Wal) | (19) 30.03.95 |
| 8 | Jonjo **SHELVEY** | (22) 27.02.92 |
| 23 | Gylfi **SIGURDSSON** (Ice) | (25) 08.09.89 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | Wilfried **BONY** (IvC) | (25) 10.12.88 |
| 41 | Rory **DONNELLY** (NI) | (22) 18.02.92 |
| 11 | Marvin **EMNES** (Hol) | (26) 27.05.88 |
| 18 | Bafetimbi **GOMIS** (Fra) | (29) 06.08.85 |
| 20 | Jefferson **MONTERO** (Ecu) | (25) 01.09.89 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Garry **MONK** | | (35) 06.03.79 |

## TOTTENHAM H

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 24 | Brad **FRIEDEL** (USA) | (43) 18.05.71 |
| 1 | Hugo **LLORIS** (Fra) | (27) 26.12.86 |
| 13 | Michel **VORM** (Hol) | (30) 20.10.83 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 32 | Benoit **ASSOU-EKOTTO** (Cam) | (30) 24.03.84 |
| 6 | Vlad **CHIRICHES** (Rom) | (24) 14.11.89 |
| 33 | Ben **DAVIES** (Wal) | (21) 24.04.93 |
| 15 | Eric **DIER** | (20) 15.01.94 |
| 21 | Federico **FAZIO** (Arg) | (27) 17.03.87 |
| 4 | Younes **KABOUL** (Fra) | (28) 04.01.86 |
| 16 | Kyle **NAUGHTON** | (25) 11.11.88 |
| 3 | Danny **ROSE** | (24) 02.07.90 |
| 5 | Jan **VERTONGHEN** (Blg) | (27) 24.04.87 |
| 2 | Kyle **WALKER** | (24) 28.05.90 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 42 | Nabil **BENTALEB** (Alg) | (19) 24.11.94 |
| 29 | Etienne **CAPOUE** (Fra) | (26) 11.07.88 |
| 22 | Nacer **CHADLI** (Blg) | (25) 02.08.89 |
| 19 | Mousa **DEMBELE** (Blg) | (27) 16.07.87 |
| 23 | Christian **ERIKSEN** (Den) | (22) 14.02.92 |
| 11 | Erik **LAMELA** (Arg) | (22) 04.03.92 |
| 7 | Aaron **LENNON** | (27) 16.04.87 |
| 38 | Ryan **MASON** | (23) 13.06.91 |
| 8 | **PAULINHO** (Bra) | (26) 25.07.88 |
| 25 | Benjamin **STAMBOULI** (Fra) | (24) 13.08.90 |
| 17 | Andros **TOWNSEND** | (23) 16.07.91 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | Emmanuel **ADEBAYOR** (Tog) | (30) 26.02.84 |
| 18 | Harry **KANE** | (21) 28.07.93 |
| 9 | Roberto **SOLDADO** (Spa) | (29) 27.05.85 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mauricio **POCHETTINO** (Arg) | | (42) 02.03.72 |

## WBA

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 19 | Luke **DANIELS** | (26) 05.01.88 |
| 1 | Ben **FOSTER** | (31) 03.04.83 |
| 13 | Boaz **MYHILL** (Wal) | (31) 09.11.82 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | Chris **BAIRD** (NI) | (32) 25.02.82 |
| 28 | Sebastian **BLANCO** (Arg) | (26) 15.03.88 |
| 25 | Craig **DAWSON** | (24) 06.05.90 |
| 14 | Jason **DAVIDSON** (Aus) | (23) 29.06.91 |
| 16 | Cristian **GAMBOA** (CR) | (24) 24.10.89 |
| 33 | Bradley **GARMSTON** (RoI) | (20) 18.01.94 |
| 6 | Joleon **LESCOTT** | (32) 16.08.82 |
| 23 | Gareth **McAULEY** (NI) | (34) 05.12.79 |
| 3 | Jonas **OLSSON** (Swe) | (31) 10.03.83 |
| 20 | Liam **O'NEIL** | (20) 24.11.93 |
| 15 | Sebastien **POCOGNOLI** (Blg) | (27) 01.08.87 |
| 2 | Andre **WISDOM** | (21) 09.05.93 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | Chris **BRUNT** (NI) | (29) 14.12.84 |
| 17 | Graham **DORRANS** (Sco) | (27) 05.05.87 |
| 8 | Craig **GARDNER** | (27) 25.11.86 |
| 7 | James **MORRISON** (Sco) | (28) 25.05.86 |
| 21 | Youssouf **MULUMBU** (DRC) | (27) 25.01.87 |
| 34 | Kemar **ROOFE** | (21) 06.01.93 |
| 29 | Stephane **SESSEGNON** (Ben) | (30) 01.06.84 |
| 27 | Silvestre **VARELA** (Por) | (29) 02.02.85 |
| 5 | Claudio **YACOB** (Arg) | (27) 18.07.87 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | Victor **ANICHEBE** (Nga) | (26) 23.04.88 |
| 18 | Saido **BERAHINO** | (21) 04.08.93 |
| 9 | Brown **IDEYE** (Nga) | (25) 10.10.88 |
| 30 | Georgios **SAMARAS** (Gre) | (29) 21.02.85 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alan **IRVINE** (Sco) | | (56) 12.07.58 |

## WEST HAM UNITED

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 13 | **ADRIAN** (Spa) | (27) 03.01.87 |
| 22 | Jussi **JAASKELAINEN** (Fin) | (39) 19.04.75 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 32 | Reece **BURKE** | (18) 02.09.96 |
| 37 | Leo **CHAMBERS** | (19) 05.08.95 |
| 19 | James **COLLINS** (Wal) | (31) 23.08.83 |
| 3 | Aaron **CRESSWELL** | (24) 15.12.89 |
| 20 | Guy **DEMEL** (IvC) | (33) 13.06.81 |
| 18 | Carl **JENKINSON** | (22) 08.02.92 |
| 17 | Joey **O'BRIEN** (RoI) | (28) 17.02.86 |
| 33 | Danny **POTTS** | (20) 13.04.94 |
| 2 | Winston **REID** (NZ) | (26) 03.07.88 |
| 5 | James **TOMKINS** | (25) 29.03.89 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 21 | Morgan **AMALFITANO** (Fra) | (29) 20.03.85 |
| 11 | Stewart **DOWNING** | (30) 22.07.84 |
| 7 | Matt **JARVIS** | (28) 22.05.86 |
| 8 | Cheikhou **KOUYATE** (Sen) | (24) 21.12.89 |
| 16 | Mark **NOBLE** | (27) 08.05.87 |
| 4 | Kevin **NOLAN** | (32) 24.06.82 |
| 23 | Diego **POYET** | (19) 08.04.95 |
| 30 | Alex **SONG** (Cam) | (27) 09.09.87 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Andy **CARROLL** | (25) 06.01.89 |
| 24 | Carlton **COLE** | (30) 12.10.83 |
| 36 | Elliot **LEE** | (19) 16.12.94 |
| 15 | Diafra **SAKHO** (Sen) | (24) 24.12.89 |
| 31 | Enner **VALENCIA** (Ecu) | (24) 04.11.89 |
| 12 | Ricardo **VAZ TE** (Por) | (27) 01.10.86 |
| 10 | Mauro **ZARATE** (Arg) | (27) 18.03.87 |

### MANAGER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sam **ALLARDYCE** | | (59) 19.10.54 |

# GERMANY BUNDESLIGA 2014-15



## AUGSBURG

**GOALKEEPERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 37 | Ioannis **GELIOS** (Gre) | (22) 24.04.92 |
| 35 | Marwin **HITZ** (Swi) | (27) 18.09.87 |
| 1 | Alex **MANNINGER** (Aut) | (37) 04.06.77 |

**DEFENDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 18 | Jan-Ingwer **CALLSEN-BRACKER** | (30) 23.09.84 |
| 17 | Marcel **DE JONG** (Can) | (27) 15.10.86 |
| 32 | Raphael **FRAMBERGER** | (19) 06.09.95 |
| 20 | **HONG** Jeong-ho (SKo) | (25) 12.08.89 |
| 5 | Ragnar **KLAVAN** (Est) | (28) 30.10.85 |
| 3 | Ronny **PHILP** (Rom) | (25) 28.01.89 |
| 4 | Dominik **REINHARDT** | (29) 19.12.84 |
| 40 | Tim **RIEDER** | (21) 03.09.93 |
| 39 | Maik **UHDE** | (20) 23.05.94 |
| 2 | Paul **VERHAEGH** (Hol) | (31) 01.09.83 |

**MIDFIELDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7 | Halil **ALTINTOP** (Tur) | (31) 08.12.82 |
| 10 | Daniel **BAIER** | (30) 18.05.84 |
| 11 | Alexander **ESSWEIN** | (24) 25.03.90 |
| 8 | Markus **FEULNER** | (32) 12.02.82 |
| 21 | Dominik **KOHR** | (20) 31.01.94 |
| 14 | Jan **MORAVEK** (CzR) | (24) 01.11.89 |
| 36 | Max **REINTHALER** (Ita) | (19) 22.03.95 |
| 29 | Marco **SCHUSTER** | (18) 10.10.95 |
| 26 | Erik **THOMMY** | (20) 20.08.94 |
| 13 | Tobias **WERNER** | (29) 19.07.85 |

**FORWARDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 | Raul **BOBADILLA** (Arg) | (27) 18.06.87 |
| 30 | **CAIUBY** (Bra) | (26) 14.07.88 |
| 34 | Nikola **DJURDJIC** (Ser) | (28) 01.04.86 |
| 31 | Arif **EKIN** (Tur) | (19) 14.09.95 |
| 23 | Tim **MATAVZ** (Sln) | (25) 13.01.89 |
| 33 | Sascha **MOLDERS** | (29) 20.03.85 |
| 9 | Shawn **PARKER** | (21) 07.03.93 |

**COACH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Markus **WEINZIERL** | (39) 28.12.74 |

## BAYER LEVERKUSEN

**GOALKEEPERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 | Dario **KRESIC** (Cro) | (30) 11.01.84 |
| 1 | Bernd **LENO** | (22) 04.03.92 |
| 36 | Niklas **LOMB** | (21) 28.07.93 |
| 22 | David **YELLDELL** (USA) | (33) 01.10.81 |

**DEFENDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 17 | Sebastian **BOENISCH** (Pol) | (27) 01.02.87 |
| 26 | Giulio **DONATI** (Ita) | (24) 05.02.90 |
| 13 | Roberto **HILBERT** | (29) 16.10.84 |
| 16 | Tin **JEDVAJ** (Cro) | (18) 28.11.95 |
| 14 | Kyriakos **PAPADOPOULOS** (Gre) | (22) 23.02.92 |
| 3 | Stefan **REINARTZ** | (25) 01.01.89 |
| 5 | Emir **SPAHIC** (Bos) | (34) 18.08.80 |
| 21 | Omer **TOPRAK** (Tur) | (25) 21.07.89 |
| 18 | **WENDELL** (Bra) | (21) 20.07.93 |

**MIDFIELDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 38 | Karim **BELLARABI** | (24) 08.04.90 |
| 8 | Lars **BENDER** | (25) 27.04.89 |
| 19 | Julian **BRANDT** | (18) 02.05.96 |
| 10 | Hakan **CALHANOGLU** (Tur) | (20) 08.02.94 |
| 27 | Gonzalo **CASTRO** | (27) 11.06.87 |
| 23 | Robbie **KRUSE** (Aus) | (25) 05.10.88 |
| 15 | Levin **OZTUNALI** | (18) 15.03.96 |
| 6 | Simon **ROLFES** | (32) 21.01.82 |
| 35 | Vladlen **YURCHENKO** (Ukr) | (20) 22.01.94 |

**FORWARDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Josip **DRMIC** (Swi) | (22) 08.08.92 |
| 11 | Stefan **KIESSLING** | (30) 25.01.84 |
| 7 | **SON** Heung-min (SKo) | (22) 08.07.92 |

**COACH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Roger **SCHMIDT** | (47) 13.03.67 |

Leverkusen... Bellarabi

## BAYERN MUNICH

**GOALKEEPERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Manuel **NEUER** | (28) 27.03.86 |
| 22 | Tom **STARKE** | (33) 18.03.81 |
| 23 | Pepe **REINA** (Spa) | (32) 31.08.82 |

**DEFENDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 27 | David **ALABA** (Aut) | (22) 24.06.92 |
| 28 | Holger **BADSTUBER** | (25) 13.03.89 |
| 5 | Mehdi **BENATIA** (Mor) | (27) 17.04.87 |
| 18 | Juan **BERNAT** (Spa) | (21) 01.03.93 |
| 17 | Jerome **BOATENG** | (26) 03.09.88 |
| 4 | **DANTE** (Bra) | (30) 18.10.83 |
| 21 | Philipp **LAHM** | (30) 11.11.83 |
| 13 | **RAFINHA** (Bra) | (29) 07.09.85 |

**MIDFIELDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | Thiago **ALCANTARA** (Spa) | (23) 11.04.91 |
| 3 | Xabi **ALONSO** (Spa) | (32) 25.11.81 |
| 19 | Mario **GOTZE** | (22) 03.06.92 |
| 16 | Gianluca **GAUDINO** | (17) 11.11.96 |
| 34 | Pierre **HOJBJERG** (Den) | (19) 05.08.95 |
| 8 | Javi **MARTINEZ** (Spa) | (26) 02.09.88 |
| 7 | Franck **RIBERY** (Fra) | (31) 01.04.83 |
| 20 | Sebastian **RODE** | (23) 11.10.90 |
| 31 | Bastian **SCHWEINSTEIGER** | (30) 01.08.84 |
| 15 | Lucas **SCHOLL** | (18) 05.07.96 |
| 11 | Xherdan **SHAQIRI** (Swi) | (22) 10.10.91 |
| 30 | Mitchell **WEISER** | (20) 21.04.94 |

**FORWARDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 24 | Sinan **KURT** | (18) 23.07.96 |
| 9 | Robert **LEWANDOWSKI** (Pol) | (26) 21.08.88 |
| 25 | Thomas **MULLER** | (25) 13.09.89 |
| 14 | Claudio **PIZARRO** (Per) | (36) 03.10.78 |
| 10 | Arjen **ROBBEN** (Hol) | (30) 23.01.84 |
| 36 | Patrick **WEIHRAUCH** | (20) 03.03.94 |

**COACH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Pep **GUARDIOLA** (Spa) | (43) 18.01.71 |

## BOR DORTMUND

**GOALKEEPERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 39 | Hendrik **BONMANN** | (20) 22.01.94 |
| 22 | Mitchell **LANGERAK** (Aus) | (26) 22.08.88 |
| 1 | Roman **WEIDENFELLER** | (34) 06.08.80 |

**DEFENDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 37 | Erik **DURM** | (22) 12.05.92 |
| 28 | Matthias **GINTER** | (20) 19.01.94 |
| 15 | Mats **HUMMELS** | (25) 16.12.88 |
| 21 | Oliver **KIRCH** | (32) 21.08.82 |
| 25 | Sokratis **PAPASTATHOPOULOS** (Gre) | (26) 09.06.88 |
| 26 | Lukasz **PISZCZEK** (Pol) | (29) 03.06.85 |
| 29 | Marcel **SCHMELZER** | (26) 22.01.88 |
| 4 | Neven **SUBOTIC** (Ser) | (25) 10.12.88 |

**MIDFIELDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | Sven **BENDER** | (25) 27.04.89 |
| 16 | Jakub **BLASZCZYKOWSKI** (Pol) | (28) 14.12.85 |
| 19 | Kevin **GROSSKREUTZ** | (26) 19.07.88 |
| 8 | Ilkay **GUNDOGAN** | (23) 24.10.90 |
| 14 | Milos **JOJIC** (Ser) | (22) 19.03.92 |
| 7 | Shinji **KAGAWA** (Jap) | (25) 17.03.89 |
| 5 | Sebastian **KEHL** | (34) 13.02.80 |
| 10 | Henrikh **MKHITARYAN** (Arm) | (25) 21.01.89 |
| 18 | Nuri **SAHIN** (Tur) | (25) 05.09.88 |

**FORWARDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 17 | Pierre-Emerick **AUBAMEYANG** (Gab) | (25) 18.06.89 |
| 9 | Ciro **IMMOBILE** (Ita) | (24) 20.02.90 |
| 23 | **JI** Dong-won (SKo) | (23) 28.05.91 |
| 20 | Adrian **RAMOS** (Col) | (28) 22.01.86 |
| 11 | Marco **REUS** | (25) 31.05.89 |

**COACH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Jurgen **KLOPP** | (47) 16.06.67 |

## HANOVER

**GOALKEEPERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 39 | Robert **ALMER** (Aut) | (30) 20.03.84 |
| 14 | Markus **MILLER** | (32) 08.04.82 |
| 1 | Ron-Robert **ZIELER** | (25) 12.02.89 |

**DEFENDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | Miiko **ALBORNOZ** (Chl) | (23) 30.11.90 |
| 2 | Leon **ANDREASEN** (Den) | (31) 23.04.83 |
| 30 | Florian **BALLAS** | (21) 08.01.93 |
| 20 | **FELIPE** (Bra) | (27) 15.05.87 |
| 25 | **MARCELO** (Bra) | (27) 20.05.87 |
| 24 | Christian **PANDER** | (31) 28.08.83 |
| 27 | Vladimir **RANKOVIC** | (21) 27.06.93 |
| 4 | Hiroki **SAKAI** (Jap) | (24) 12.04.90 |
| 5 | Salif **SANE** (Fra) | (24) 25.08.90 |
| 19 | Christian **SCHULZ** | (31) 01.04.83 |
| 33 | Yannik **SCHULZE** | (19) 05.02.95 |
| 18 | Marius **STANKEVICIUS** (Lit) | (33) 15.07.81 |
| 17 | Stefan **THESKER** | (23) 11.04.91 |

**MIDFIELDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 32 | Leonardo **BITTENCOURT** | (20) 19.12.93 |
| 34 | Tim **DIERSSEN** | (18) 15.01.96 |
| 36 | Sebastian **ERNST** | (19) 04.03.95 |
| 6 | Ceyhun **GULSELAM** (Tur) | (26) 25.12.87 |
| 15 | Andre **HOFFMANN** | (21) 28.02.93 |
| 28 | Hiroshi **KIYOTAKE** (Jap) | (24) 12.11.89 |
| 7 | Edgar **PRIB** | (24) 15.12.89 |
| 8 | Manuel **SCHMIEDEBACH** | (25) 05.12.88 |
| 10 | Lars **STINDL** | (26) 26.08.88 |
| 37 | Niklas **TEICHGRABER** | (18) 07.02.96 |

**FORWARDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 21 | Jimmy **BRIAND** (Fra) | (29) 02.08.85 |
| 11 | **JOSELU** (Spa) | (24) 27.03.90 |
| 26 | Kenan **KARAMAN** (Tur) | (20) 05.03.94 |
| 13 | Jan **SCHLAUDRAFF** | (31) 18.07.83 |
| 9 | Artur **SOBIECH** (Pol) | (24) 12.06.90 |
| 38 | Valmir **SULEJMANI** | (18) 01.02.96 |

**COACH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Tayfun **KORKUT** (Tur) | (40) 02.04.74 |

## HERTHA BERLIN

**GOALKEEPERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 30 | Sascha **BURCHERT** | (24) 30.10.89 |
| 35 | Marius **GERSBECK** | (19) 20.06.95 |
| 22 | Rune **JARSTEIN** (Nor) | (30) 29.09.84 |
| 1 | Thomas **KRAFT** | (26) 22.07.88 |

**DEFENDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 | John **BROOKS** (USA) | (21) 28.01.93 |
| 5 | John **HEITINGA** (Hol) | (30) 15.11.83 |
| 6 | Christoph **JANKER** | (29) 14.02.85 |
| 15 | Sebastian **LANGKAMP** | (26) 15.01.88 |
| 2 | Peter **PEKARIK** (Slk) | (27) 30.10.86 |
| 21 | Marvin **PLATTENHARDT** | (22) 26.01.92 |
| 23 | Johannes **VAN DEN BERGH** | (27) 21.11.86 |

**MIDFIELDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Alexander **BAUMJOHANN** | (27) 23.01.87 |
| 10 | Anis **BEN-HATIRA** (Tun) | (26) 18.07.88 |
| 17 | Tolga **CIGERCI** | (22) 23.03.92 |
| 13 | Jens **HEGELER** | (26) 22.01.88 |
| 7 | Hajime **HOSOGAI** (Jap) | (28) 10.06.86 |
| 28 | Fabian **LUSTENBERGER** (Swi) | (26) 02.05.88 |
| 34 | Hany **MUKHTAR** | (19) 21.03.95 |
| 8 | Marcel **NDJENG** (Cam) | (32) 06.05.82 |
| 18 | Peter **NIEMEYER** | (30) 22.11.83 |
| 12 | **RONNY** (Bra) | (28) 11.05.86 |
| 26 | Nico **SCHULZ** | (21) 01.04.93 |
| 3 | Per Ciljan **SKJELBRED** (Nor) | (27) 16.06.87 |
| 14 | Valentin **STOCKER** (Swi) | (25) 12.04.89 |

**FORWARDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 27 | Roy **BEERENS** (Hol) | (26) 22.12.87 |
| 24 | Genki **HARAGUCHI** (Jap) | (23) 09.05.91 |
| 11 | Salomon **KALOU** (IvC) | (29) 05.08.85 |
| 16 | Julian **SCHIEBER** | (25) 13.02.89 |
| 33 | Sandro **WAGNER** | (26) 29.11.87 |

**COACH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Jos **LUHUKAY** (Hol) | (51) 13.06.63 |

## HOFFENHEIM

**GOALKEEPERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Oliver **BAUMANN** | (24) 02.06.90 |
| 30 | Koen **CASTEELS** (Blg) | (22) 25.06.92 |
| 13 | Jens **GRAHL** | (26) 22.09.88 |
| 33 | Alexander **STOLZ** | (30) 13.10.83 |

**DEFENDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 19 | David **ABRAHAM** (Arg) | (28) 16.07.86 |
| 21 | Kevin **AKOPGUMA** | (19) 19.04.95 |
| 2 | Andreas **BECK** | (27) 13.03.87 |
| 4 | Ermin **BICAKCIC** (Bos) | (24) 24.01.90 |
| 20 | **KIM** Jin-su (SKo) | (22) 13.06.92 |
| 25 | Niklas **SULE** | (19) 03.09.95 |
| 15 | Jeremy **TOLJAN** | (20) 08.08.94 |
| 29 | Jannik **VESTERGAARD** (Den) | (22) 03.08.92 |

**MIDFIELDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 14 | Tarik **ELYOUNOUSSI** (Nor) | (26) 23.02.88 |
| 10 | Roberto **FIRMINO** (Bra) | (23) 02.10.91 |
| 11 | Jiloan **HAMAD** (Swe) | (23) 06.11.90 |
| 38 | Kai **HERDLING** | (30) 27.06.84 |
| 8 | Eugen **POLANSKI** (Pol) | (28) 17.03.86 |
| 6 | Sebastian **RUDY** | (24) 28.02.90 |
| 23 | Sejad **SALIHOVIC** (Bos) | (29) 08.10.84 |
| 16 | Pirmin **SCHWEGLER** (Swi) | (27) 09.03.87 |
| 12 | Tobias **STROBL** | (24) 12.05.90 |
| 17 | Steven **ZUBER** (Swi) | (23) 17.08.91 |

**FORWARDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26 | Janik **HABERER** | (20) 02.04.94 |
| 27 | Anthony **MODESTE** (Fra) | (26) 14.04.88 |
| 41 | Knowledge **MUSONA** (Zim) | (24) 21.06.90 |
| 28 | Adam **SZALAI** (Hun) | (26) 09.12.87 |
| 9 | Sven **SCHIPPLOCK** | (25) 08.11.88 |
| 31 | Kevin **VOLLAND** | (22) 30.07.92 |

**COACH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Markus **GISDOL** | (45) 17.08.69 |

## MAINZ

**GOALKEEPERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Stefanos **KAPINO** (Gre) | (20) 18.03.94 |
| 21 | Loris **KARIUS** | (21) 22.07.93 |
| 38 | Robin **ZENTNER** | (19) 28.10.94 |

**DEFENDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 16 | Stefan **BELL** | (23) 24.08.91 |
| 26 | Niko **BUNGERT** | (27) 24.10.86 |
| 20 | Junior **DIAZ** (CR) | (31) 12.09.83 |
| 2 | Gonzalo **JARA** (Chl) | (29) 29.08.85 |
| 22 | Julian **KOCH** | (23) 11.11.90 |
| 4 | Nikolce **NOVESKI** (Mac) | (35) 28.04.79 |
| 24 | **PARK** Joo-Ho (SKo) | (27) 16.01.87 |
| 32 | Damian **ROSSBACH** | (21) 27.02.93 |
| 5 | Benedikt **SALLER** | (22) 22.09.92 |
| 34 | Tobias **SCHILK** | (22) 24.03.92 |
| 3 | Philipp **WOLLSCHEID** | (25) 06.03.89 |

**MIDFIELDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 14 | Julian **BAUMGARTLINGER** (Aut) | (26) 02.01.88 |
| 18 | Daniel **BROSINSKI** | (26) 17.07.88 |
| 10 | Filip **DJURICIC** (Ser) | (22) 30.01.92 |
| 6 | Johannes **GEIS** | (21) 17.08.93 |
| 31 | Jonas **HOFMANN** | (22) 14.07.92 |
| 17 | **JAIRO** Samperio (Spa) | (21) 11.07.93 |
| 13 | **KOO** Ja-Cheol (SKo) | (25) 27.02.89 |
| 11 | Yunus **MALLI** | (22) 24.02.92 |
| 8 | Christoph **MORITZ** | (24) 27.01.90 |
| 28 | Todor **NEDELEV** (Bul) | (21) 07.02.93 |
| 19 | Elkin **SOTO** (Col) | (34) 04.08.80 |

**FORWARDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Sami **ALLAGUI** (Tun) | (28) 28.05.86 |
| 15 | Pablo **DE BLASIS** (Arg) | (26) 04.02.88 |
| 23 | Shinji **OKAZAKI** (Jap) | (28) 16.04.86 |
| 36 | Nikita **RUKAVYTSYA** (Aus) | (27) 22.06.87 |
| 35 | Petar **SLISKOVIC** (Cro) | (23) 21.02.91 |

**COACH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Kasper **HJULMAND** (Den) | (42) 09.04.72 |

## PADERBORN

**GOALKEEPERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 19 | Nico **BURCHERT** | (27) 24.06.87 |
| 1 | Lukas **KRUSE** | (31) 09.07.83 |
| 33 | Daniel **LUCK** | (23) 18.05.91 |
| 12 | Alexander **NUBEL** | (18) 30.09.96 |

**DEFENDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 | Martin **AMEDICK** | (32) 06.09.82 |
| 26 | Florian **HARTHERZ** | (21) 29.05.93 |
| 22 | Michael **HEINLOTH** | (22) 09.02.92 |
| 2 | Uwe **HUNEMEIER** | (28) 09.01.86 |
| 3 | **RAFA** (Spa) | (29) 09.04.85 |
| 13 | Christian **STROHDIEK** | (26) 22.01.88 |
| 28 | Tim **WELKER** | (21) 08.09.93 |
| 5 | Patrick **ZIEGLER** | (24) 09.02.90 |

**MIDFIELDERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | Marvin **BAKALORZ** | (25) 13.09.89 |
| 14 | Thomas **BERTELS** | (27) 05.11.86 |
| 21 | Daniel **BRUCKNER** | (33) 14.02.81 |
| 30 | Suleyman **KOC** (Tur) | (25) 09.06.89 |
| 17 | Alban **MEHA** (Alb) | (28) 26.04.86 |
| 27 | Idir **OUALI** (Alg) | (26) 21.05.88 |
| 23 | Mirnes **PEPIC** (Mne) | (18) 19.12.95 |
| 4 | Lukas **RUPP** | (23) 08.01.91 |
| 11 | Moritz **STOPPELKAMP** | (27) 11.12.86 |
| 8 | Mario **VRANCIC** | (25) 23.05.89 |
| 20 | Marc **VUCINOVIC** | (26) 19.09.88 |
| 7 | Jens **WEMMER** | (28) 31.10.85 |

**FORWARDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 34 | Marvin **DUCKSCH** | (20) 07.03.94 |
| 15 | Elias **KACHUNGA** | (22) 22.04.92 |
| 9 | Stefan **KUTSCHKE** | (25) 03.11.88 |
| 24 | Viktor **MAIER** | (25) 26.08.89 |
| 10 | Mahir **SAGLIK** (Tur) | (31) 18.01.83 |

**COACH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Andre **BREITENREITER** | (41) 02.10.73 |

(ages as of 03.10.14)

## BOR M'GLADBACH

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 21 | Janis **BLASWICH** | (23) 02.05.91 |
| 33 | Christofer **HEIMEROTH** | (33) 01.08.81 |
| 1 | Yann **SOMMER** (Swi) | (25) 17.12.88 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 20 | Nico **BRANDENBURGER** | (19) 17.01.95 |
| 4 | Roel **BROUWERS** (Hol) | (32) 28.11.81 |
| 3 | Filip **DAEMS** (Blg) | (35) 31.10.78 |
| 15 | Alvaro **DOMINGUEZ** (Spa) | (25) 16.05.89 |
| 24 | Tony **JANTSCHKE** | (24) 07.04.90 |
| 19 | Fabian **JOHNSON** (USA) | (26) 11.12.87 |
| 27 | Julian **KORB** | (22) 21.03.92 |
| 39 | Martin **STRANZL** (Aut) | (34) 16.06.80 |
| 17 | Oscar **WENDT** (Swe) | (28) 24.10.85 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | Mahmoud **DAHOUD** | (18) 01.01.96 |
| 28 | Andre **HAHN** | (24) 13.08.90 |
| 26 | Thorgan **HAZARD** (Blg) | (21) 29.03.93 |
| 7 | Patrick **HERRMANN** | (23) 12.02.91 |
| 23 | Christoph **KRAMER** | (23) 19.02.91 |
| 14 | Thorben **MARX** | (33) 01.06.81 |
| 16 | Havard **NORDTVEIT** (Nor) | (24) 21.06.90 |
| 18 | Marvin **SCHULZ** | (19) 15.01.95 |
| 8 | Ibrahima **TRAORE** (Gui) | (26) 21.04.88 |
| 34 | Granit **XHAKA** (Swi) | (22) 27.09.92 |
| 25 | Amin **YOUNES** | (21) 06.08.93 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 31 | Branimir **HRGOTA** (Swe) | (21) 12.01.93 |
| 10 | Max **KRUSE** | (36) 19.03.88 |
| 11 | **RAFFAEL** (Bra) | (29) 28.03.85 |
| 36 | Marlon **RITTER** | (19) 15.10.94 |

### COACH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lucien **FAVRE** (Swi) | | (56) 02.11.57 |

## COLOGNE

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Timo **HORN** | (21) 12.05.93 |
| 18 | Thomas **KESSLER** | (28) 20.01.86 |
| 37 | Daniel **MESENHOLER** | (19) 24.07.95 |
| 34 | Marcel **SCHUHEN** | (21) 13.01.93 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Miso **BRECKO** (Sln) | (30) 01.05.84 |
| 4 | Roman **GOLOBART** (Spa) | (22) 21.03.92 |
| 14 | Jonas **HECTOR** | (24) 27.05.90 |
| 3 | Tomas **KALAS** (CzR) | (21) 15.05.93 |
| 5 | Dominic **MAROH** (Sln) | (27) 04.03.87 |
| 19 | Mergim **MAVRAJ** (Alb) | (28) 09.06.86 |
| 30 | Bruno **NASCIMENTO** (Bra) | (23) 30.05.91 |
| 16 | Pawel **OLKOWSKI** (Pol) | (24) 13.02.90 |
| 28 | Kevin **WIMMER** (Aut) | (21) 15.11.92 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 21 | Sascha **BIGALKE** | (24) 08.01.90 |
| 32 | Lucas **CUETO** | (18) 24.03.96 |
| 31 | Yannick **GERHARDT** | (20) 13.03.94 |
| 22 | Daniel **HALFAR** | (26) 07.01.88 |
| 33 | Mathias **LEHMANN** | (21) 28.05.83 |
| 8 | Adam **MATUSCHYK** (Pol) | (25) 14.02.89 |
| 25 | Kazuki **NAGASAWA** (Jap) | (22) 16.12.91 |
| 17 | Slawomir **PESZKO** (Pol) | (29) 19.02.85 |
| 7 | Marcel **RISSE** | (25) 17.12.89 |
| 29 | Dusan **SVENTO** (Slk) | (29) 01.08.85 |
| 15 | Maxi **THIEL** | (21) 03.02.93 |
| 6 | Kevin **VOGT** | (23) 23.09.91 |
| 39 | Andre **WALLENBORN** | (19) 25.03.95 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | Thomas **BROKER** | (29) 22.01.85 |
| 26 | Bard **FINNE** (Nor) | (19) 13.02.95 |
| 10 | Patrick **HELMES** | (30) 01.03.84 |
| 13 | Yuya **OSAKO** (Jap) | (24) 18.05.90 |
| 9 | Anthony **UJAH** (Nga) | (23) 20.11.90 |
| 23 | Simon **ZOLLER** | (23) 26.06.91 |

### COACH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Peter **STOGER** (Aut) | | (48) 11.04.66 |

## E FRANKFURT

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Kevin **TRAPP** | (24) 08.07.90 |
| 30 | Felix **WIEDWALD** | (24) 15.03.90 |
| 33 | Yannick **ZUMMACK** | (18) 26.03.96 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 23 | Anderson **BAMBA** (Bra) | (26) 10.01.88 |
| 22 | Timothy **CHANDLER** (USA) | (24) 29.03.90 |
| 15 | Constant **DJAKPA** (IvC) | (27) 17.10.86 |
| 31 | David **KINSOMBI** | (18) 12.12.95 |
| 17 | Alexander **MADLUNG** | (32) 11.07.82 |
| 6 | Bastian **OCZIPKA** | (25) 12.01.89 |
| 4 | Marco **RUSS** | (29) 04.08.85 |
| 5 | Carlos **ZAMBRANO** (Per) | (25) 10.07.89 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 16 | Stefan **AIGNER** | (27) 20.08.87 |
| 18 | Johannes **FLUM** | (26) 25.02.88 |
| 32 | Joel **GEREZGIHER** | (18) 09.10.95 |
| 20 | Makoto **HASEBE** (Jap) | (30) 18.01.84 |
| 27 | Aleksandar **IGNJOVSKI** (Ser) | (23) 27.01.91 |
| 8 | Takashi **INUI** (Jap) | (26) 02.06.88 |
| 28 | Sonny **KITTEL** | (21) 06.01.93 |
| 13 | Martin **LANIG** | (30) 11.07.84 |
| 25 | Slobodan **MEDOJEVIC** (Ser) | (23) 20.10.90 |
| 14 | Alexander **MEIER** | (31) 17.01.83 |
| 7 | Jan **ROSENTHAL** | (28) 07.04.86 |
| 21 | Marc **STENDERA** | (18) 10.12.95 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | Vaclav **KADLEC** (CzR) | (22) 20.05.92 |
| 19 | Lucas **PIAZON** (Bra) | (19) 12.12.94 |
| 9 | Haris **SEFEROVIC** (Swi) | (22) 22.02.92 |
| 11 | Nelson **VALDEZ** (Par) | (30) 28.11.83 |
| 24 | Luca **WALDSCHMIFT** | (18) 19.05.96 |

### COACH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thomas **SCHAAF** | | (53) 30.04.61 |

## FREIBURG

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 19 | Daniel **BATZ** | (23) 12.01.91 |
| 1 | Roman **BURKI** (Swi) | (23) 14.11.90 |
| 21 | Sebastian **MIELITZ** | (25) 18.07.89 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 30 | Christian **GUNTER** | (21) 28.02.93 |
| 41 | Immanuel **HOHN** | (22) 23.12.91 |
| 5 | Christopher **JULLIEN** (Fra) | (21) 22.03.93 |
| 20 | Marc-Oliver **KEMPF** | (19) 28.01.95 |
| 2 | Pavel **KRMAS** (CzR) | (34) 03.03.80 |
| 15 | Stefan **MITROVIC** (Ser) | (24) 22.05.90 |
| 24 | Mensur **MUJDZA** (Bos) | (30) 28.03.84 |
| 22 | Sascha **RIETHER** | (31) 23.03.83 |
| 25 | Oliver **SORG** | (24) 29.05.90 |
| 3 | Marc **TORREJON** (Spa) | (28) 18.02.86 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7 | Vladimir **DARIDA** (CzR) | (24) 08.08.90 |
| 8 | Mike **FRANTZ** | (27) 14.10.86 |
| 31 | Karim **GUEDE** (Slk) | (29) 07.01.85 |
| 27 | Nicolas **HOFLER** | (24) 09.03.90 |
| 37 | Sebastian **KERK** | (20) 17.04.94 |
| 36 | Felix **KLAUS** | (22) 13.09.92 |
| 26 | Maximilian **PHILIPP** | (20) 01.03.94 |
| 17 | Jonathan **SCHMID** (Fra) | (24) 26.06.90 |
| 23 | Julian **SCHUSTER** | (29) 15.04.85 |
| 33 | Caleb **STANKO** (USA) | (21) 26.07.93 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 35 | Sebastien **FRIES** | (29) 23.04.85 |
| 14 | Admir **MEHMEDI** (Swi) | (23) 16.03.91 |
| 11 | Dani **SCHAHIN** | (25) 09.07.89 |
| 9 | Philipp **ZULECHNER** (Aut) | (24) 12.04.90 |

### COACH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Christian **STREICH** | | (49) 11.06.65 |

## HAMBURG

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 15 | Rene **ADLER** | (29) 15.01.85 |
| 1 | Jaroslav **DROBNY** (CzR) | (34) 18.10.79 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | **CLEBER** (Bra) | (23) 05.12.90 |
| 2 | Dennis **DIEKMEIER** | (24) 20.10.89 |
| 5 | Johan **DJOUROU** (Swi) | (27) 18.01.87 |
| 7 | Marcell **JANSEN** | (28) 04.11.85 |
| 22 | Matthias **OSTRZOLEK** | (24) 05.06.90 |
| 32 | Slobodan **RAJKOVIC** (Ser) | (25) 03.02.89 |
| 4 | Heiko **WESTERMANN** | (31) 14.08.83 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | Tolgay **ARSLAN** | (24) 16.08.90 |
| 21 | Valon **BEHRAMI** (Swi) | (29) 19.04.85 |
| 18 | Lewis **HOLTBY** | (24) 18.09.90 |
| 11 | Ivo **ILICEVIC** (Cro) | (27) 14.11.86 |
| 19 | Petr **JIRACEK** (CzR) | (28) 02.03.86 |
| 33 | Gideon **JUNG** | (20) 12.09.94 |
| 40 | Gojko **KACAR** (Ser) | (27) 26.01.87 |
| 27 | Nicolai **MULLER** | (27) 25.09.87 |
| 34 | Valmir **NAFIU** (Mac) | (20) 23.04.94 |
| 17 | Zoltan **STIEBER** (Hun) | (25) 16.10.88 |
| 24 | Matti **STEINMANN** | (19) 08.01.95 |
| 23 | Rafael **VAN DER VAART** (Hol) | (31) 11.02.83 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Maximilian **BEISTER** | (24) 06.09.90 |
| 37 | Julian **GREEN** (USA) | (19) 06.06.95 |
| 10 | Pierre-Michel **LASOGGA** | (22) 15.12.91 |
| 26 | Philipp **MULLER** | (19) 03.03.95 |
| 16 | Artjoms **RUDNEVS** (Lat) | (26) 13.01.88 |

### COACH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Josef **ZINNBAUER** | | (44) 01.05.70 |

## SCHALKE

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ralf **FAHRMANN** | (26) 27.09.88 |
| 34 | Fabian **GIEFER** | (24) 17.05.90 |
| 40 | Timon **WELLENREUTHER** | (18) 03.12.95 |
| 28 | Christian **WETKLO** | (34) 11.01.80 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 15 | Dennis **AOGO** | (27) 14.01.87 |
| 24 | Kaan **AYHAN** (Tur) | (19) 10.11.94 |
| 2 | Marvin **FRIEDRICH** | (18) 13.12.95 |
| 23 | Christian **FUCHS** (Aut) | (28) 07.04.86 |
| 4 | Benedikt **HOWEDES** | (26) 29.02.88 |
| 37 | Pascal **ITTER** | (19) 03.04.95 |
| 3 | Jan **KIRCHHOFF** | (24) 01.10.90 |
| 6 | Sead **KOLASINAC** (Bos) | (21) 20.06.93 |
| 32 | Joel **MATIP** (Cam) | (23) 08.08.91 |
| 5 | Felipe **SANTANA** (Bra) | (28) 17.03.86 |
| 22 | Atsuto **UCHIDA** (Jap) | (26) 27.03.88 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 27 | Tranquillo **BARNETTA** (Swi) | (29) 22.05.85 |
| 9 | Kevin-Prince **BOATENG** (Gha) | (27) 06.03.87 |
| 11 | Christian **CLEMENS** | (23) 04.08.91 |
| 10 | Julian **DRAXLER** | (21) 20.09.93 |
| 17 | Jefferson **FARFAN** (Per) | (29) 28.10.84 |
| 8 | Leon **GORETZKA** | (19) 06.02.95 |
| 12 | Marco **HOGER** | (25) 16.09.89 |
| 7 | Max **MEYER** | (19) 18.09.95 |
| 33 | Roman **NEUSTADTER** | (26) 18.02.88 |
| 20 | Chinedu **OBASI** (Nga) | (28) 01.06.86 |
| 18 | Sidney **SAM** | (26) 31.01.88 |
| 19 | Leroy **SANE** | (18) 11.01.96 |
| 35 | Marcel **SOBOTTKA** | (20) 25.04.94 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 29 | Donis **AVDIJAJ** | (18) 25.08.96 |
| 13 | Maxim **CHOUPO-MOTING** (Cam) | (25) 23.03.89 |
| 25 | Klaas-Jan **HUNTELAAR** (Hol) | (31) 12.08.83 |

### COACH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jens **KELLER** | | (43) 24.11.70 |

## STUTTGART

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 22 | Thorsten **KIRSCHBAUM** | (27) 20.04.87 |
| 1 | Sven **ULREICH** | (26) 03.08.88 |
| 17 | Odisseas **VLACHODIMOS** (Gre) | (20) 26.04.94 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | Karim **HAGGUI** (Tun) | (30) 20.01.84 |
| 27 | Tim **LEIBOLD** | (20) 30.11.93 |
| 6 | Georg **NIEDERMEIER** | (28) 26.02.86 |
| 34 | Konstantin **RAUSCH** | (24) 15.03.90 |
| 24 | Antonio **RUDIGER** | (21) 03.03.93 |
| 2 | Gotoku **SAKAI** (Jap) | (23) 14.03.91 |
| 3 | Daniel **SCHWAAB** | (26) 23.08.88 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | Daniel **DIDAVI** | (24) 21.02.90 |
| 20 | Christian **GENTNER** | (29) 14.08.85 |
| 11 | Carlos **GRUEZO** (Ecu) | (19) 19.04.95 |
| 21 | Adam **HLOUSEK** (CzR) | (23) 20.12.88 |
| 26 | Raphael **HOLZHAUSER** (Aut) | (21) 16.02.93 |
| 16 | Florian **KLEIN** (Aut) | (27) 17.11.86 |
| 18 | Filip **KOSTIC** (Ser) | (21) 01.11.92 |
| 8 | Moritz **LEITNER** | (21) 08.12.92 |
| 44 | Alexandru **MAXIM** (Rom) | (24) 08.07.90 |
| 13 | Oriol **ROMEU** (Spa) | (23) 24.09.91 |
| 23 | Sercan **SARARER** (Spa) | (24) 27.11.89 |
| 39 | Robin **YALCIN** | (20) 25.01.94 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 | Mohammed **ABDELLAOUE** (Nor) | (28) 23.10.85 |
| 33 | Daniel **GINCZEK** | (23) 13.04.91 |
| 7 | Martin **HARNIK** (Aut) | (27) 10.06.87 |
| 9 | Vedad **IBISEVIC** (Bos) | (30) 06.08.84 |
| 19 | Timo **WERNER** | (18) 06.03.96 |

### COACH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Armin **VEH** | | (53) 01.02.61 |

Bremen... Galvez

## WERDER BREMEN

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 40 | Raif **HUSIC** (Bos) | (18) 05.02.96 |
| 30 | Richard **STREBINGER** (Aut) | (21) 14.02.93 |
| 1 | Raphael **WOLF** | (26) 06.06.88 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 38 | Marnon-Thomas **BUSCH** | (19) 08.12.94 |
| 3 | Luca **CALDIROLA** (Ita) | (23) 01.02.91 |
| 8 | Clemens **FRITZ** | (33) 07.12.80 |
| 4 | Alex **GALVEZ** (Spa) | (25) 06.06.89 |
| 2 | Santiago **GARCIA** (Arg) | (26) 08.07.88 |
| 23 | Theodor **GEBRE SELASSIE** (CzR) | (27) 24.12.86 |
| 25 | Oliver **HUSING** | (21) 17.02.93 |
| 5 | Assani **LUKIMYA** (DRC) | (28) 25.01.86 |
| 15 | Sebastian **PRODL** (Aut) | (27) 21.06.87 |
| 19 | Luca **ZANDER** | (19) 09.08.95 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 21 | Levent **AYCICEK** | (20) 12.02.94 |
| 44 | Philipp **BARGFREDE** | (25) 03.03.89 |
| 22 | Fin **BARTELS** | (27) 07.02.87 |
| 14 | Izet **HAJROVIC** (Bos) | (23) 04.08.91 |
| 16 | Zlatko **JUNUZOVIC** (Aut) | (27) 26.09.87 |
| 6 | Cedric **MAKIADI** (DRC) | (30) 23.02.84 |
| 7 | Ludovic **OBRANIAK** (Pol) | (29) 10.11.84 |
| 26 | Julian **VON HAACKE** | (20) 14.02.94 |
| 17 | Ozkan **YILDIRIM** | (21) 10.04.93 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Franco **DI SANTO** (Arg) | (25) 07.04.89 |
| 11 | Eljero **ELIA** (Hol) | (27) 13.02.87 |
| 18 | Felix **KROOS** | (23) 12.03.91 |
| 24 | Nils **PETERSEN** | (26) 06.12.88 |
| 27 | Davie **SELKE** | (19) 20.01.95 |

### COACH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Robin **DUTT** | | (49) 24.01.65 |

## WOLFSBURG

### GOALKEEPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Diego **BENAGLIO** (Swi) | (31) 08.09.83 |
| 21 | Patrick **DREWES** | (21) 04.02.93 |
| 20 | Max **GRUN** | (27) 05.04.87 |

### DEFENDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 24 | Sebastian **JUNG** | (24) 22.06.90 |
| 5 | Timm **KLOSE** (Swi) | (26) 09.05.88 |
| 31 | Robin **KNOCHE** | (22) 22.05.92 |
| 26 | Felipe **LOPES** (Bra) | (27) 07.08.87 |
| 25 | **NALDO** (Bra) | (32) 10.09.82 |
| 2 | Patrick **OCHS** | (30) 14.05.84 |
| 34 | Ricardo **RODRIGUEZ** (Swi) | (22) 25.08.92 |
| 4 | Marcel **SCHAFER** | (30) 07.06.84 |
| 37 | Moritz **SPRENGER** | (19) 22.02.95 |
| 15 | Christian **TRASCH** | (27) 01.09.87 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 27 | Maximilian **ARNOLD** | (20) 27.05.94 |
| 7 | Daniel **CALIGIURI** | (26) 15.01.88 |
| 14 | Kevin **DE BRUYNE** (Blg) | (23) 28.06.91 |
| 23 | Josuha **GUILAVOGUI** (Fra) | (24) 19.09.90 |
| 22 | Luiz **GUSTAVO** (Bra) | (27) 23.07.87 |
| 10 | Aaron **HUNT** | (28) 04.09.86 |
| 28 | Mateusz **KLICH** (Pol) | (24) 13.06.90 |
| 19 | Junior **MALANDA** (Blg) | (20) 28.08.94 |
| 9 | Ivan **PERISIC** (Cro) | (25) 02.02.89 |
| 30 | Paul **SEGUIN** | (19) 29.03.95 |
| 8 | **VIERINHA** (Por) | (28) 24.01.86 |

### FORWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | Nicklas **BENDTNER** (Den) | (26) 16.01.88 |
| 12 | Bas **DOST** (HOL) | (25) 31.05.89 |
| 11 | Ivica **OLIC** (CRO) | (35) 14.09.79 |

### COACH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dieter **HECKING** | | (50) 12.09.64 |

World Soccer's GREAT TEAMS

# Leeds United 1971

The team that Don Revie built dominated the English game and had great success in European competition

**Marching on...Leeds United's first-team squad at the start of the 1970-71 season, in which they won the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup**

Although their early successes were built on a foundation of ferocious tackling and gamesmanship that led to the enduring title of "dirty Leeds", the side built by Don Revie were also cultured and skilful. They ruled English football for the best part of a decade.

In the May 1968 edition of *World Soccer*, Leslie Page wrote: "The sheer professionalism of Don Revie's men deserved praise. They were truly a team in every sense and Revie would never have it any other way.

"From a rather dour defensive outfit, providing football of a quality sometimes less than entertaining, they developed into a side feared for their aggression and thrust."

They beat Ferencvaros to win the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup in 1968 and won it for a second time three years later, against Juventus.

The FA Cup was captured in 1972, but heartache ensued the following year as second division Sunderland beat them at Wembley and Milan won 1-0 in the European Cup-winners Cup Final.

During that season's European campaign they demolished Rapid Bucharest 8-1, which had *World Soccer*'s Philip Rising enthusing: "Make no mistake, Leeds are the most talented and skilful team in England.

"Rapid weren't the best of sides, and were crude in the early stages, but Leeds massacred them with superb attacking football."

In 1974, Revie's reign came to an end when he replaced Alf Ramsey as England manager. He signed off in style by winning a second league title.

By this time Terry Yorath, Gordon McQueen and Joe Jordan were established in the side, and while still a hard team they were an entertaining side to watch. They could, however, never shrug off that tag of "dirty Leeds". WS

## THE COACH AND HIS TEAM

**Don Revie**

Joined Leeds in 1958, becoming player/manager in 1961 with the club heading towards the third division. After stabilising the situation, he won his first silverware in 1968 and went on to collect six major trophies, plus 10 runners-up medals, before leaving to manage England in 1974. He quit three years later to coach the UAE. He died in 1989 after a long battle against Motor Neurone Disease.

**Tactics**

Revie's side lined up in a 4-4-2 formation for both legs of the 1971 Fairs Cup Final. With Gray injured, the versatile Madeley was deployed on the left side of midfield. Cooper, who liked to overlap, was marked tightly by Causio, thus nullifying the Juventus forward as an attacking threat. After a 2-2 draw in Turin, it finished 1-1 at Elland Road and Leeds won on away goals.

## THE STARTING XI

**Gary Sprake**
**Goalkeeper**
Spent 10 years as the club's first choice keeper despite a reputation for making mistakes.

**Paul Reaney**
**Right-back**
Former car mechanic who joined the club as an apprentice and played more than 500 games.

**Norman Hunter**
**Centre-back**
Tough tackler, known as Norman "bites yer legs", he was in the 1966 World Cup squad but did not play.

**Jack Charlton**
**Centre-back**
Made a club record 762 appearances. World Cup winner in 1966 and Player of the Year in 1967.

**Terry Cooper**
**Left-back**
Skilful player who Revie converted from a winger to a full-back. Linked well with Eddie Gray on the left flank.

**Peter Lorimer**
**Midfielder**
Scotland international with a powerful shot, he scored over 200 goals for the club in more than 700 games.

**Billy Bremner**
**Midfielder**
Tough tackling captain. Footballer of the Year in 1970, he managed Leeds to an FA Cup semi in 1987.

**Johnny Giles**
**Midfielder**
Midfield hard man who was Revie's pick to succeed him, but was overlooked for Brian Clough.

**Paul Madeley**
**Midfielder**
Local lad who spent 17 years at the club and played in every position apart from goalkeeper.

**Allan Clarke**
**Forward**
Nicknamed "Sniffer" for his ability to hunt out a goal. Joined Leeds in 1969 and later managed the club.

**Mick Jones**
**Forward**
Dislocated an elbow in the 1972 FA Cup Final and scored the winner in the 1968 Fairs Cup Final.

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